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Black

DWARF

WHAT SINISTER SCHEME HID BEHIND THE GRAVEYARD RENDEZVOUS? WHY DID THE KILLER LEAVE LOOT ON A CORPSE? THE BLACK DWARF AND HIS STRANGE BAND OF EX-CROOKS KNEW THAT JUSTICE WOULD BEGYPPED UNLESS THEY COULD SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF THE RED BOX!



WE'VE PICKED A CREEPY SPOT TO MEET US! HE'S A CROOKED LAWYER

YEAH, BEAK WONDER WHAT HE WANTS?



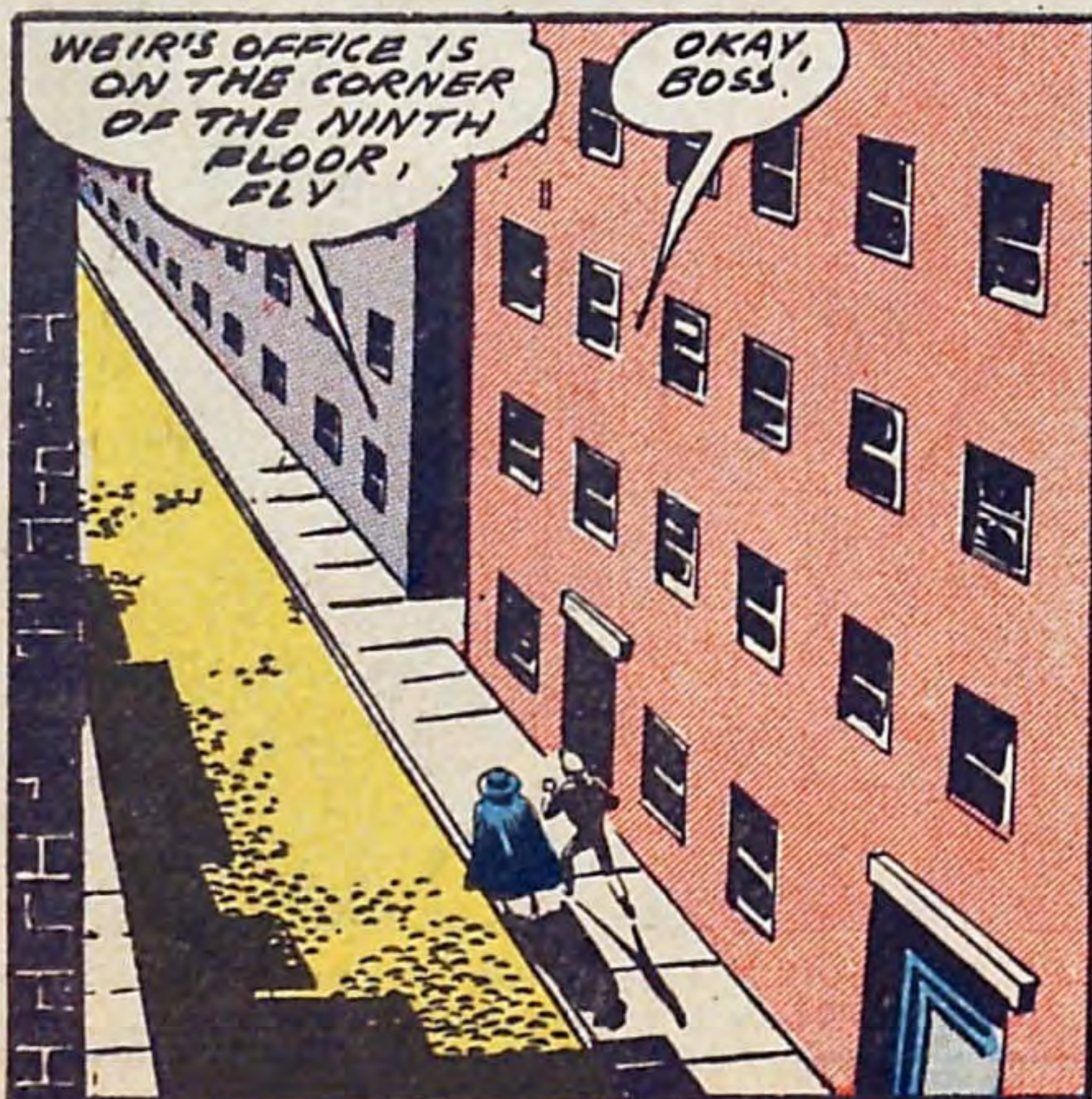
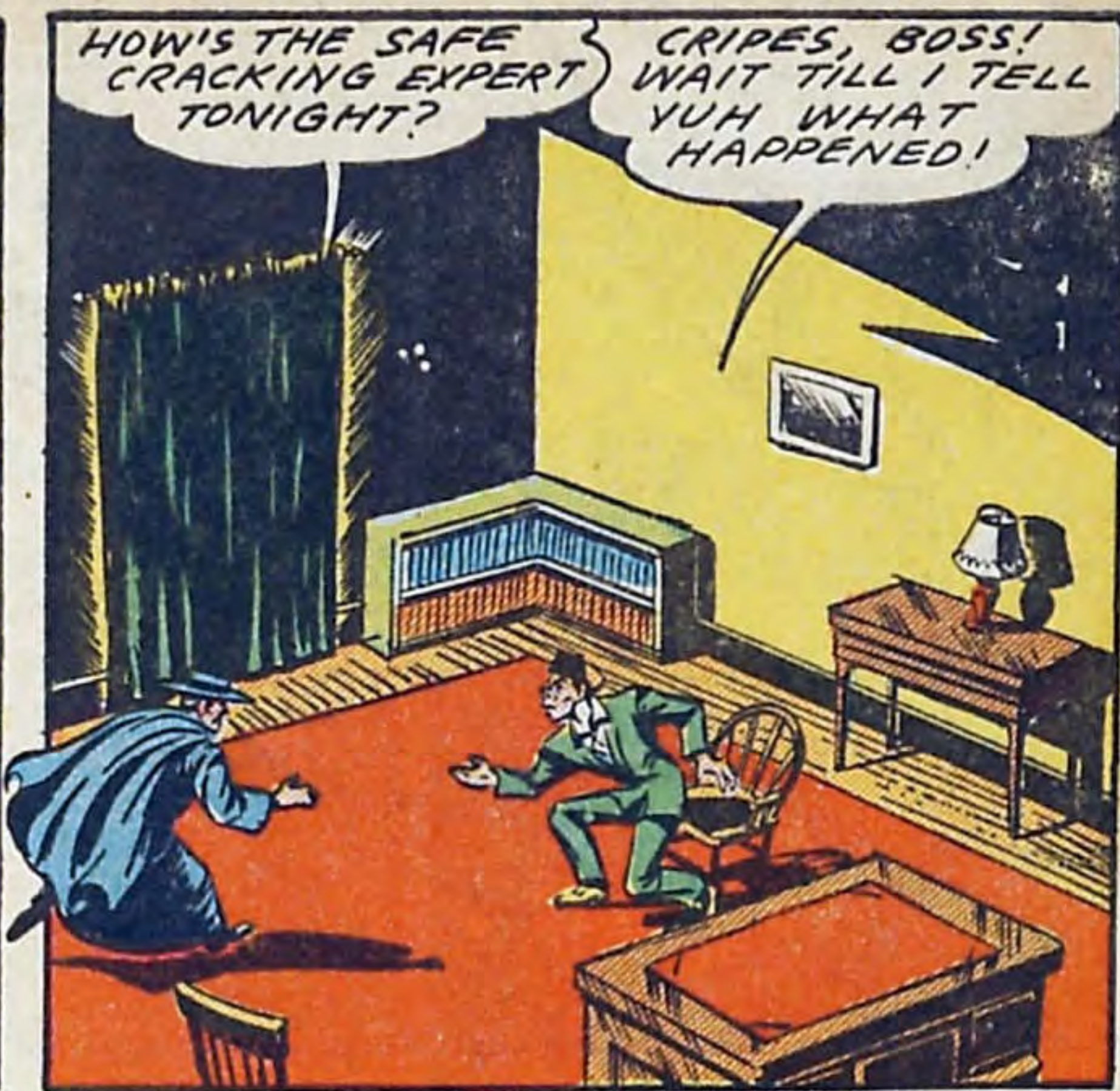
THIS GRAVEYARD IS THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD

SO WHAT? HEY, IS THAT THE GUY COMIN' NOW?















YOU'VE RUN INTER-FERENCE FOR THE LAST TIME!

DUCK, ARSENIC. I'M OKAY!



YOU SWITCHED PAPERS IN THE RED BOX, ARSENIC? LET'S SEE IT.

HERE IT IS, BUT WHY DID YOU LET HIM ESCAPE?



WAIT AND SEE! HEY THIS IS AN OLD LAND TITLE TO AN ACRE HERE IN LOWER MANHATTAN THAT'S WORTH MILLIONS!

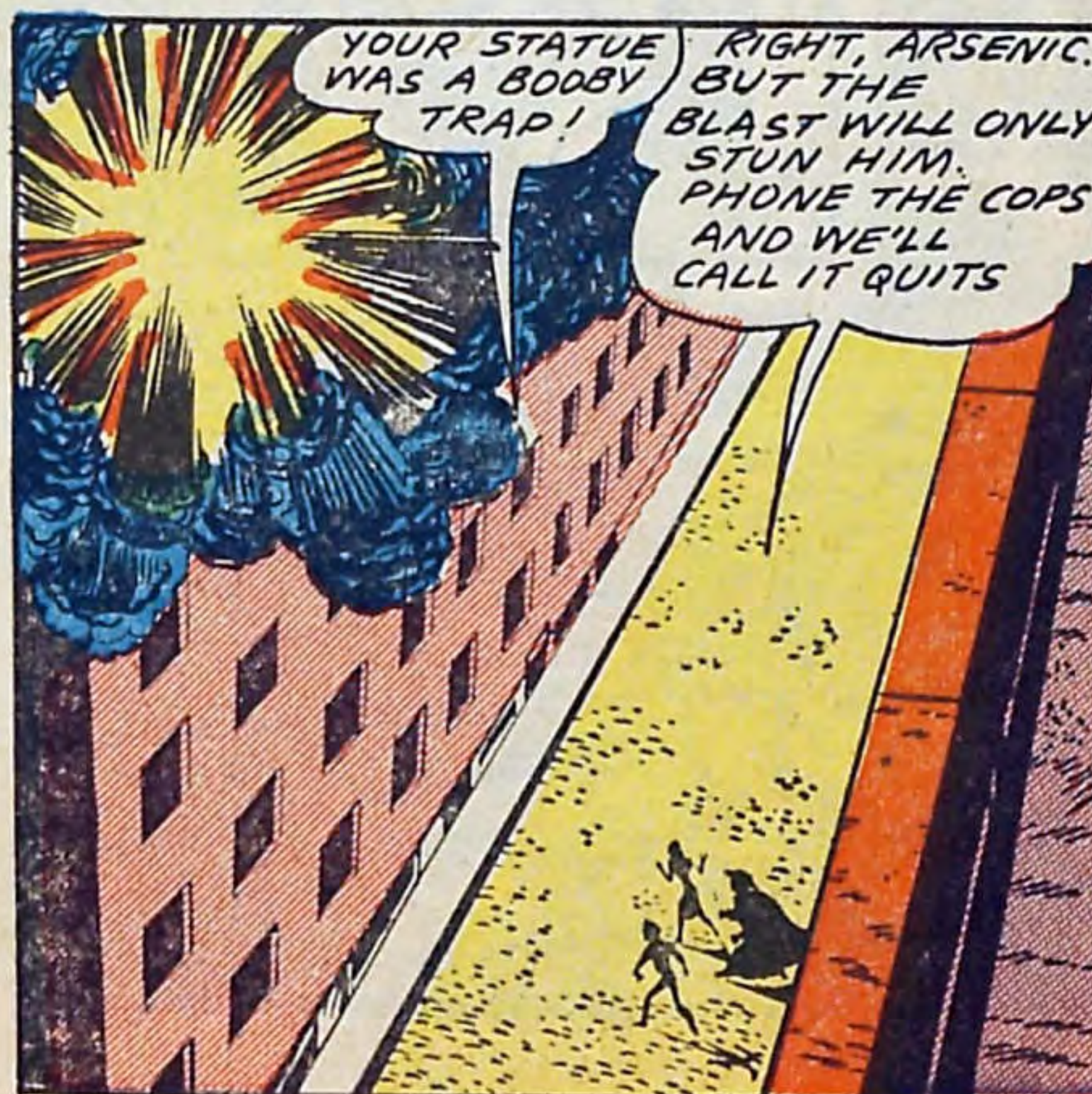


BUT HOW—

WATCH HIS WINDOW UP THERE!



HUH! THE BLACK DWARF LEFT THIS IMAGE OF HIMSELF, HOPING TO SCARE ME. I'LL SMASH THIS FOOL THING!



YOUR STATUE WAS A BOOBY TRAP!

RIGHT, ARSENIC. BUT THE BLAST WILL ONLY STUN HIM. PHONE THE COPS AND WE'LL CALL IT QUITS



HOW DID HE KNOW THE TITLE WAS IN MATILDA WARREN'S GRAVE?

AS A LAWYER, HE FOUND IT EXISTED FAMILY RECORDS SHOWED HIS GREAT GRAND AUNT LEFT NOTHING TO HER HEIRS. WEIR SURMISED THE REST!

GLOBE TROTTER



IN SEARCH OF STOLEN DIAMONDS STEVE "GLOBE" TROTTER AND HIS PET HYENA, FANG, ARE PLUNGED INTO ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC MYSTERIES OF THE DARK CONTINENT, AS THEY BATTLE A PACK OF INHUMAN FIENDS.

THE MINE OWNERS IN LONDON SENT ME TO INVESTIGATE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE DIAMONDS, MR. BECKER!

AS MANAGER OF THE MINE, I'LL COOPERATE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT!



IN THE OFFICE OF A HUGE DIAMOND MINE ON THE AFRICAN COAST...

THE DETAILS ARE EXPLAINED TO THE SPORTSMAN ADVENTURER, GLOBE TROTTER.

THE DIAMONDS WERE LOCKED IN THAT SAFE. THE NEXT DAY, V/E FOUND THE SAFE OPEN, AND DIAMONDS GONE!

THE DIAMONDS MUST BE AROUND THESE PARTS... NO SHIPS HAVE GONE SINCE IT'S DISAPPEARANCE.



SUDDENLY, TROTTERS PET
SENSES SOMETHING.



OUTSIDE THE HUT...









WE GOT WHITE
MAN! HIM
PET DEAD.



LATER, AT THE NATIVE VILLAGE
IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE.

FOR KILLING FANG,
I'LL GET YOU DEVILS YET!



ME DANCE ON
FIRE, SHOW
TRIBE MY POWER.
YOU GO NEXT
AND WHEN
YOU DIE ME
SHRINK HEAD
AND SELL IT
TO BECKER
AT MINE
OFFICE!



UNSCATHED, THE CHIEF TAUNTS
TROTTER.

NOW YOUR TURN
TO BRAVE FLAMES.



HURLING HIMSELF INTO THE
RAGING FIRE, THE CHIEF
DANCES LIKE A MADMAN.



PEOPLE... LET ME
GO INTO THE CHIEF'S
HUT TO PREPARE
MYSELF, I WILL
THEN SHOW YOU
I TOO CAN WALK
THE FLAMES.

NO NO..
THROW
HIM IN.



HIM BRAVE MAN...
LET HIM TRY TO
MAKE POWERFUL
MEDICINE, TOO!

MAYBE
HIM SHOW
US HOW
TO WALK
FLAMES!
LET HIM
GO!



WHEN I COME OUT...
I'LL DANCE ON THE FIRE
AS YOUR CHIEF DID!





I'LL FIND IT AND FREE THE NATIVES FROM THAT FIENDS. HOLD.



IN A SHORT WHILE, TROTTER RACES, FROM THE HUT, INTO THE FIRE.

I'LL SHOW YOU THAT ANY ONE CAN DANCE ON THE FLAMES AND THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TRICKED BY A FAKER!



SEE THE FIRE DOES NOT HARM HIM!

OUR CHIEF IS NOT THE ONLY GREAT ONE!

THE WHITE MAN WILL TEACH US HOW!



GUESS IT'S TIME TO STOP THE ACT AND LET THEM IN ON IT.



HERE HE COMES. WHITE MAN WILL EXPLAIN THE MAGIC!

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW THE CHIEF TRICKED YOU!



SEE! WHITE MAN'S PRODUCT, ASBESTOS PASTE. IT COVERS THE OUTSIDE AND FLAMES CANNOT PENETRATE IT.

THEN HIM FAKE! HIM BURN, TOO!



CHIEF, HIM RUN TOWARD MINE BUILDING!

THANKS, PAL... SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M GOING TO EXPOSE THE CHIEF AND CLEAR UP THE DIAMOND MYSTERY!



THIS IS THE ONE I HID THEM IN!



SUDDENLY...

GLOBE TROTTER!

AND SOON TO HAVE THE MYSTERY OF THE DIAMONDS SOLVED!



Devil Dog DOLAN

"Devil Dog" Dolan boarded the launch that was to take him and his buddies ashore. "Ah, Borneo!" whistled the marine.

The launch cut through the water, when suddenly Dolan's attention was attracted to a native boy swimming towards them. Dolan spied a shark's fin zooming up behind the boy, "Gosh!" he yelled, "a shark's going after that kid!"

Dolan jumped to the side of the launch, "I got to save him."

A husky M. P. grabbed him and said, "Don't be a fool, Dolan. You can't save the kid. It would only mean your own life."

Dolan grabbed the M. P.'s club, pushed him aside and dived into the water.

As Dolan reached the boy, the shark dove under water. Down went Dolan. He saw the shark zooming up to the boy's feet. The powerful jaws opened, and as they did, Dolan took his only chance.

He jammed the club into the shark's mouth. The sudden sensation of danger frightened the shark, and it dove deep into the sea and disappeared.

Once on the boat, the boy grabbed Dolan and cried, "You saved me. Me now your boy."

All that day and the following week, the boy followed Dolan. At night he slept on the pier and waited for the marine to come ashore.

One morning, Dolan walked up to the boy, "Cefrina," he said, "we are going into the jungles to attack a band of Japs. You can't go with me."

Tears filled Cefrina's eyes. "Me your boy," he cried. "You fight, me must fight with you."

"No!" raged Dolan. "You stay or you won't be my boy no more."

A bugle call filled the air. Dolan grabbed his pack and began to run toward his battalion. "Remember," he yelled, "don't follow."

Into the jungle, Dolan's battalion marched. For days the rear guard reported somebody was following.

The commander finally ordered, "SHOOT TO KILL!"

Chills ran down Dolan's spine. It might be Cefrina!

That night the jungle was quiet. Dolan was on rear guard duty. Silently, he walked into the jungles. "Cefrina!" he yelled.

Suddenly, a bullet whizzed by him, and two Japs leaped, grabbing him by the throat. Dolan felt steel hands choking him.

When he thought himself doomed, a small figure dropped from the trees sending Dolan and the Japs crashing to the floor. The sudden impact broke the hold on Dolan. He sprang to his feet.

"BIFF! BANG!" his fists smashed out. Down crashed the Japs.

Dolan looked down and saw a small boy holding a rifle.

"Cefrina!" he yelled. "Come on, we've got to get back to camp."

Dolan fired into the air and roused the battalion for battle.

Suddenly, the jungles were aroused. Rifles cracked and Jap bullets whizzed at the marines.

Hours flew by. The worried commander turned to Dolan. "It's helpless," he said. "We can't hold out much longer. The Japs will soon kill off the wounded. We need ammunition in a hurry."

"I get you, chief," said Dolan. "You want me to try and break through for help."

The commander nodded.

As Dolan prepared to rush out into the jungle, Cefrina's hand grabbed him. "You too big," said Cefrina. "Won't make it. Me little and know jungles. Me go!" And with that he raced into the jungle.

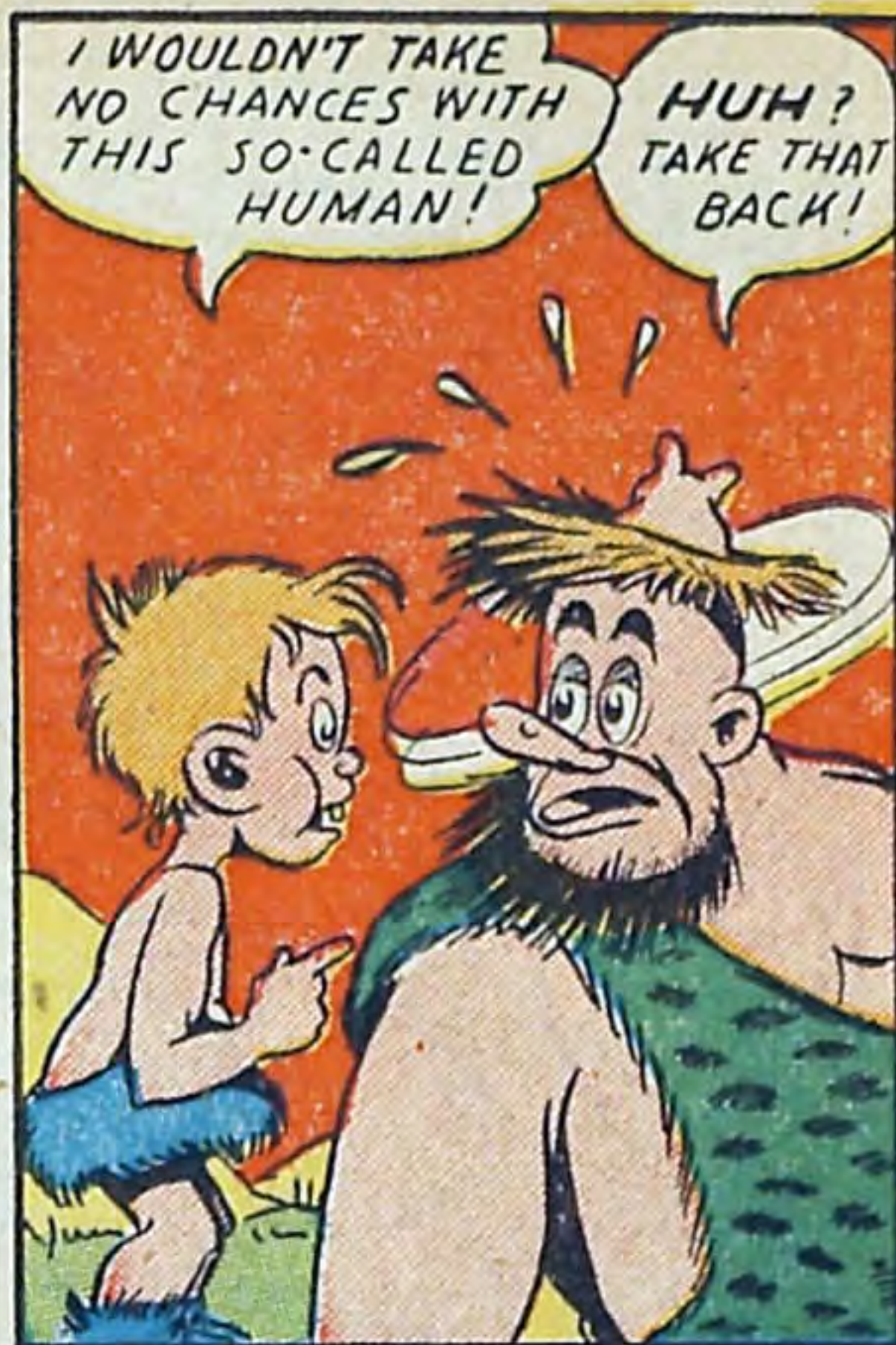
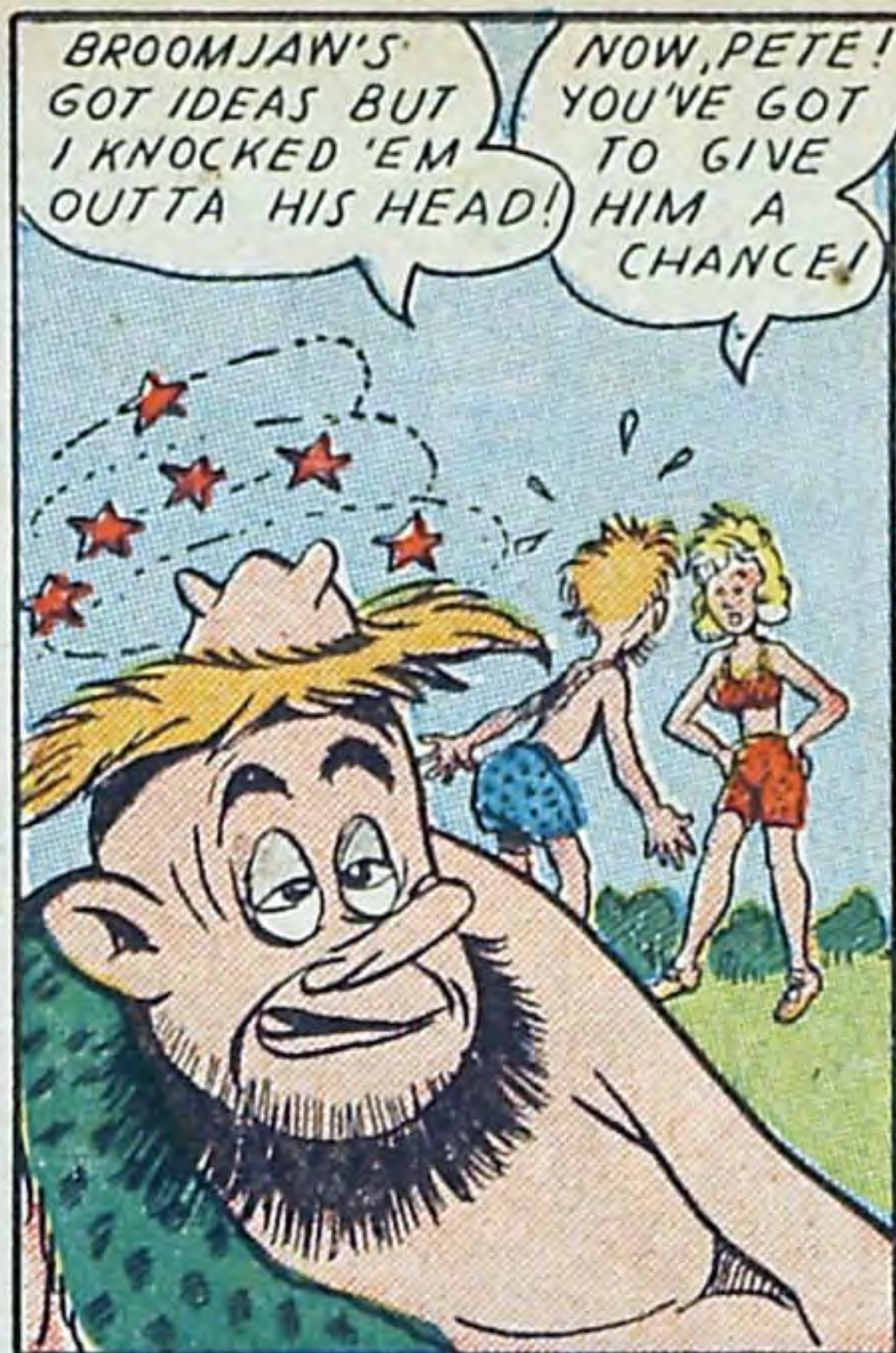
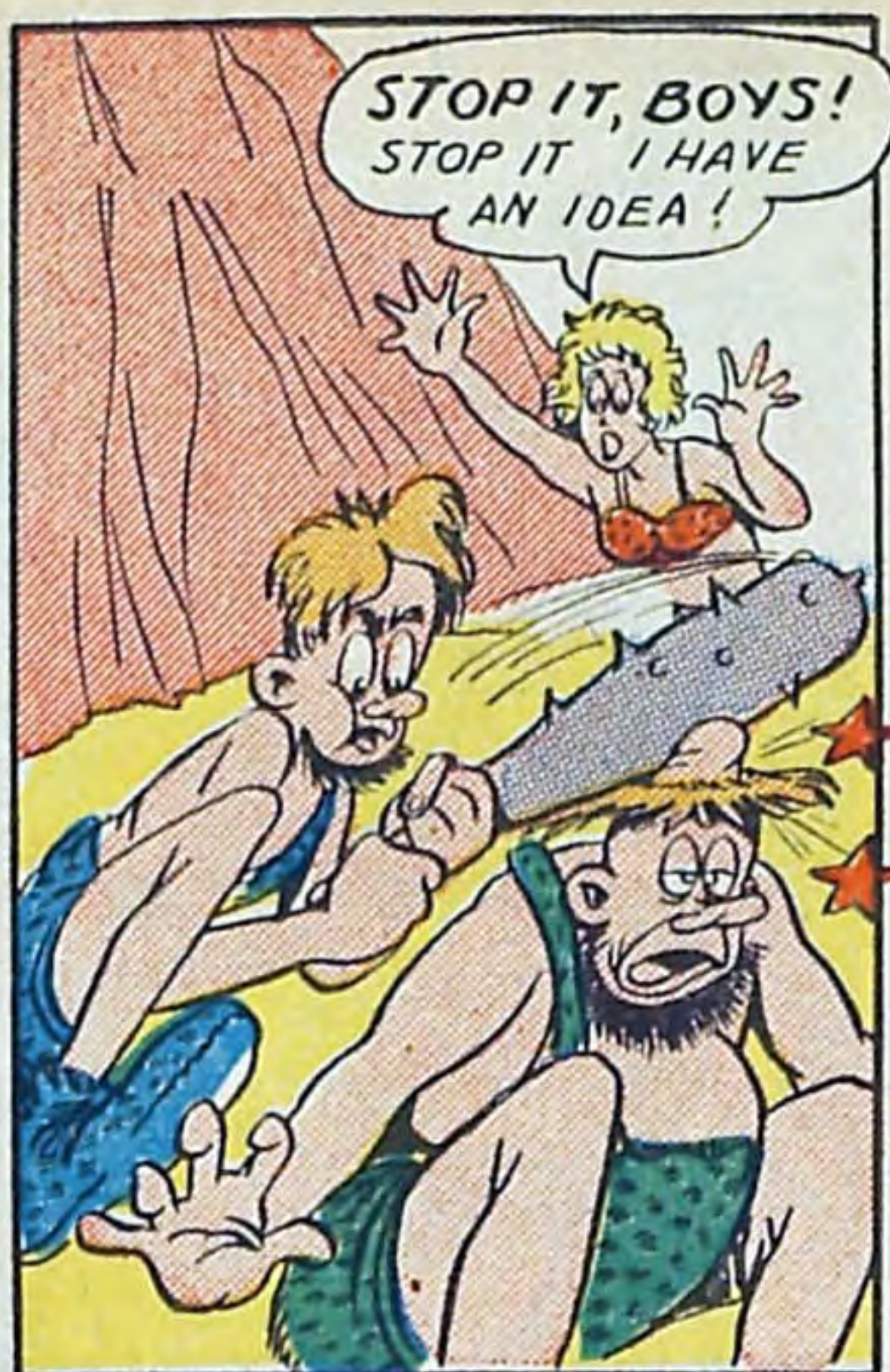
Hours passed, and morning began to break. The commander turned to Dolan, "I don't think he got through."

But suddenly Dolan leaped up. "That's what you think. 'Listen!' he cried. 'Airplanes!'"

Over the small clearing a squadron of planes dropped, their machine guns strafing the enemy ranks. The Japs turned and fled.

Parachute troops with supplies came out of the planes. Dolan looked up. "Jumping Jupiter!" he grinned, "lookit Cefrina. He's coming down in a parachute!"







HA! THAT OUGHT TO BUST HIS BACK!



THE BATTLEAXE! GOSH, I THOUGHT YOU WUZ A BABY HIPPOPOTAMUS!

OH, YOU DID, DID YOU!



THIS'LL LEARN YOU TO BE POLITE TO A LADY!



BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. EVA SENT ME OUT HUNTING!

YEAH WELL TRY YOUR LUCK AT FISHING!



HELP! I CAN'T SWIM!

YUH'D BETTER LEARN HOW- AND FAST!



AND WHAT ARE YOU SNOOPING AROUND FOR, SNOOPY?

SHHH! I'M TRACKING A FEROCIOUS BEAST!



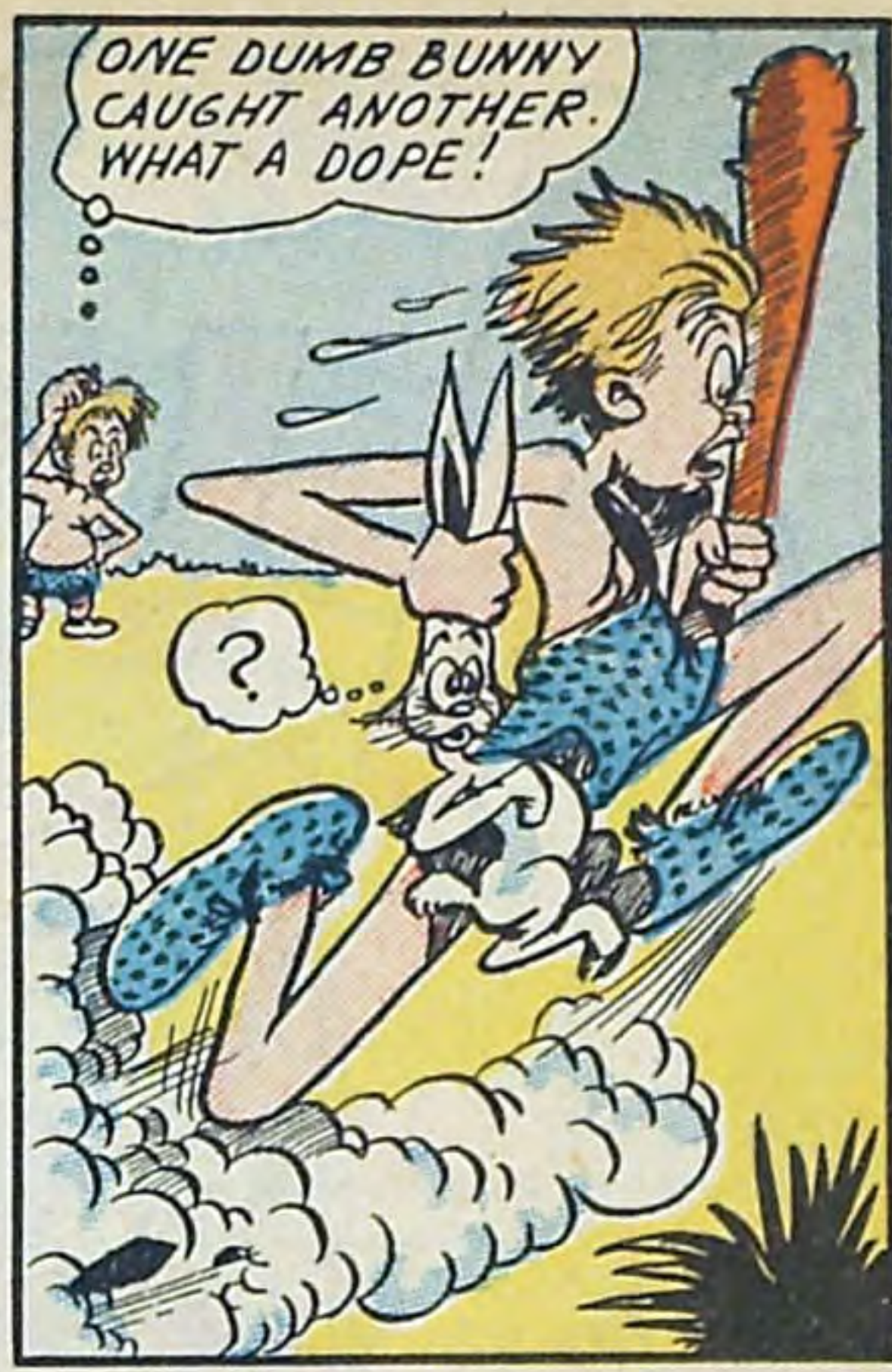
IF IT'S LARGER THAN A MOUSE, YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT!



DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME OLE GAL!



THAT CARROT EATER WOULD FAINT IF HE KNEW WHAT'S BEHIND HIM!



The VEILED AVENGER



THE UNDERWORLD SHUDDERS IN FEAR OF AN UNKNOWN ASSASSIN WHO PREYS ON PROFESSIONAL CROOKS. SO DESPERATE BECOMES THE SITUATION THAT GANGDOM PLEADS FOR POLICE PROTECTION. BUT WHEN ALL EFFORTS FAIL TO CRUSH THE MENACE, GINNY SPEARS, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S SECRETARY, FLASHES FORTH AS THE VEILED AVENGER!

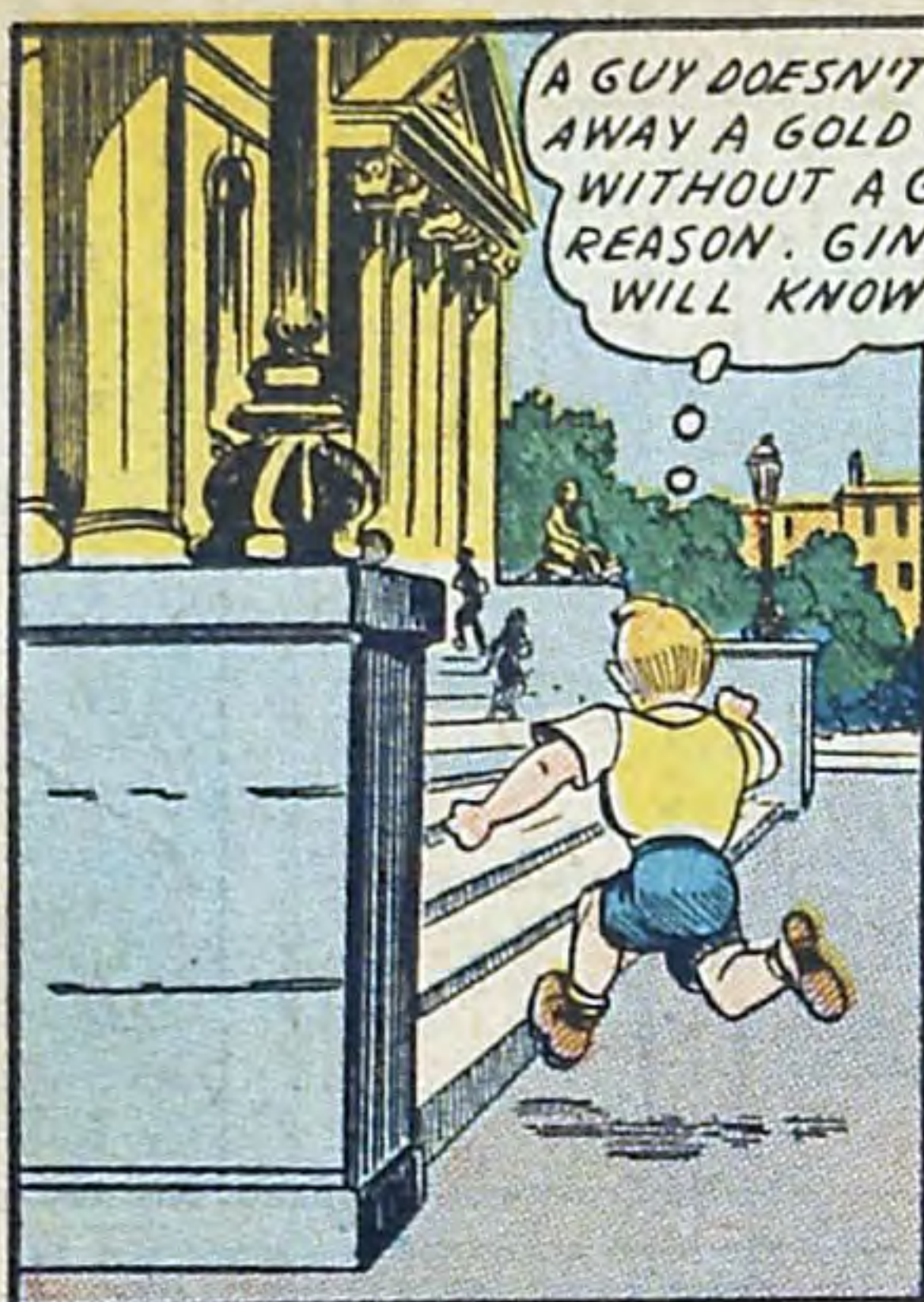


A TERRIFIED SCREAM RISES ABOVE THE SHRIEK OF AIR BRAKES IN A DESERTED SUBWAY STATION!



THAT CLEANS UP MY ACCOUNT WITH SAMMY SHORT





A GUY DOESN'T GIVE AWAY A GOLD WATCH WITHOUT A GOOD REASON. GINNY WILL KNOW!



SKIPPER! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D SEEN A GHOST!

NO, GINNY, BUT THE MAN WHO GAVE ME THIS WATCH WAS SCARED BY SOMETHING WORSE. LISTEN!



AS SKIPPER REVEALS THE FACTS....

HULLO, IS THIS THE D.A.'S OFFICE? YEAH, THIS IS MITCH BURNS. YUH GOTTA STOP THESE KILLINGS! IT AIN'T SAFE FOR AN HON-EST GUY TO -



AAAGH HELP! HE GOT ME!



WELL, I'LL BE! MISS SPEARS! TRACE THAT CALL!



THE LINE IS DEAD, SIR. WHAT WAS IT?

MITCH BURNS, LEADER OF THE PURPLE RAT GANG, WAS ATTACKED WHILE APPEALING TO ME FOR PROTECTION!



WHAT? THE UNDERWORLD ASKING FOR HELP! WHY?

A PHANTOM KILLER IS PREYING ON THEM. SAMMY SHORT WAS PUSHED OFF A SUBWAY PLATFORM, LINT REGAN WAS GASSED, AND OTHER CROOKS HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED!







JUST FOR THAT, UNCLE,
YOUR TIME IS UP!

SMACK



LIKE ALL KILLERS,
YOU TURN YELLOW
WHEN YOU'RE
LICKED!

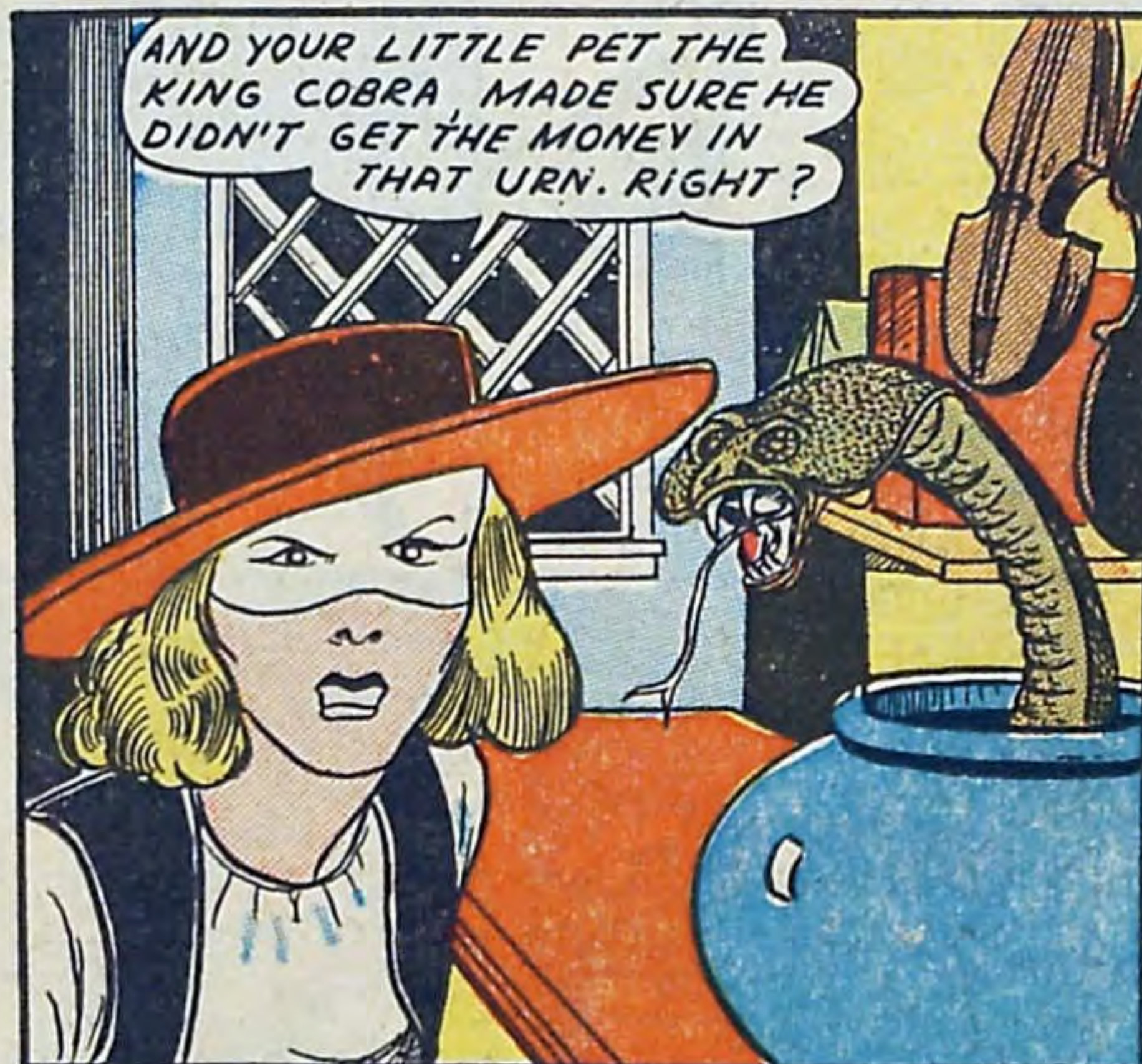
LAY OFF,
LADY! YOU
WIN!



HEY,
DON'T!

SHUT
UP! LET
HER!

WHEN
TUSKER DE-
MANDED PAY-
MENT, YOU
TOLD HIM
TO HELP
HIMSELF -
LIKE THIS!



AND YOUR LITTLE PET THE
KING COBRA, MADE SURE HE
DIDN'T GET THE MONEY IN
THAT URN. RIGHT?



LOOK OUT! THE
COBRA'S HEAD-
IN' FOR US!

AND YOU GENTS ARE
HEADING FOR THE
LAST ROUNDUP



GET YOUR HANDS
UP, GUYS! THIS
WAS NO FALSE
ALARM, MAC!

WHIP BURNS
ON MALKOM!
THE SIGN OF
THE 'VEILED
AVENGER!



SHE KILLED THE
COBRA, THEN VAN-
ISHED. HEY,
SKIPPER! DID
YOU SEE THE
VEILED AVEN-
GER?

NOT ME,
MAC, WHAT
HAPPENED?



SHE PUT A
BULLET THROUGH
THIS CALL BOX.

AND I'LL
BET SHE'LL
SEND YOU ALL
THE EVIDENCE
AGAINST UNCLE
THAD AND MAL-
KOM. IF I KNOW
HER!

THAT'S ODD!

1st!

CALIFORNIA'S
FIRST NEWSPAPER
WAS PRINTED ON
CIGARETTE
PAPER!

CALIF
STAR-
1846



The
DEADLY
COBRA-

IS HELD SACRED
IN SOME PARTS OF

INDIA



IT'S AGIN'
THE
LAW!



FOR CAMELS TO
ROAM THE HIGHWAYS
IN NEVADA!



FIRST

REGULAR
AIR MAIL ROUTE-
GARDEN CITY-MINEOLA
NEW YORK-6 MILES
SEPT. 1911

COLUMBUS-

NOBODY KNOWS-WHEN OR WHERE HE
WAS BORN...HIS NATIONALITY...WHEN
HE WAS MARRIED...HOW LONG HE
LIVED...WHERE HE IS BURIED!



TO KICK A MULE
IN GEORGIA!

MY! WHAT
A PRETTY
RED LIGHT!



FIRST

TRAFFIC LIGHT
WAS INSTALLED IN
CLEVELAND, OHIO
E. 105th AND EUCLID AV.

MACARONI-
SPAGHETTI-
VERMICELLI-
ACTUALLY
ORIGINATED
IN
CHINA!



The
OSTRICH
ODDEST OF BIRDS!

CANNOT FLY!
ROARS LIKE A LION!
HAS ONLY TWO TOES!
CAN RUN 60 MILES AN HOUR!
CAN KILL A MAN OR HORSE
WITH A SINGLE KICK!



TO HUNT WITHOUT
A DOG ON
SUNDAY IN
NORTH CAROLINA!

The FIRST DISH OF
CHOP SUEY
WAS MADE IN BOSTON!

主菜!!



a
GOLDFISH-

HAS ITS
TEETH
IN ITS
THROAT!



FOR NEWSBOYS TO HOLLER
"EXTRA" ON THE STREETS OF
FREDERICKSBURG VA.!

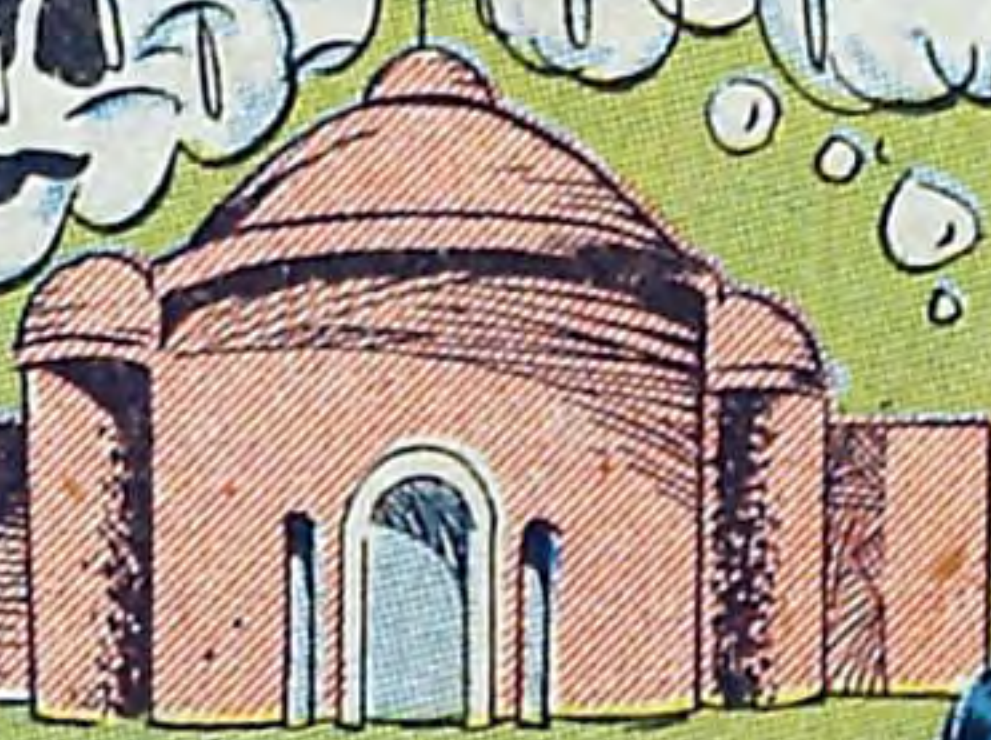
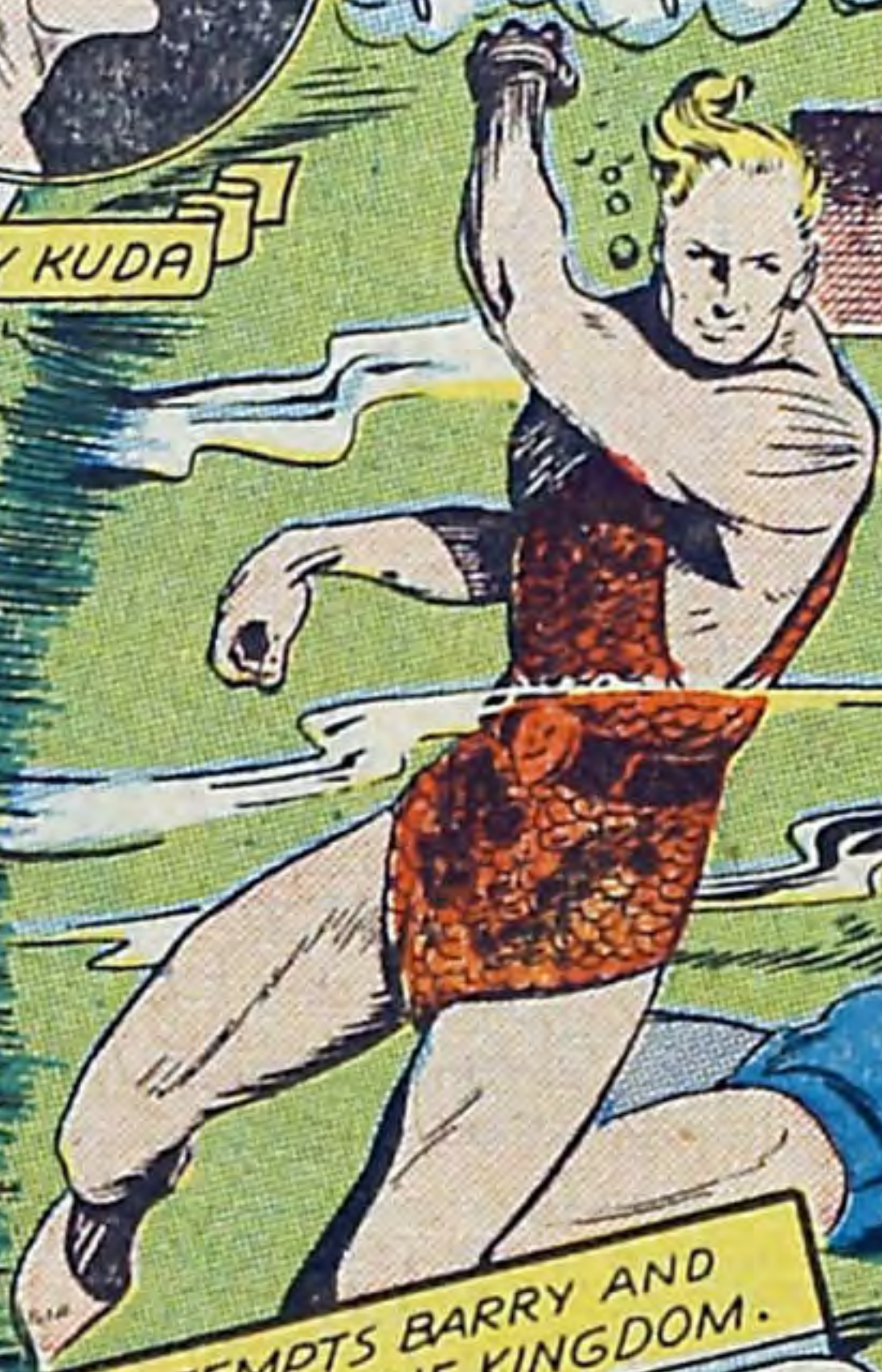
BATTLING VALIANTLY TO KEEP THE UNDERSEA KINGDOM OF QUEEN MERMA FROM FALLING INTO UNSCRUPULOUS HANDS, BARRY KUDA AND ALGIE WAGE A NEVER ENDING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MONSTERS OF THE UNDERWATER.



BARRY KUDA



QUEEN MERMA



QUEEN MERMA TEMPTS BARRY AND HIS PAL TO REMAIN IN THE KINGDOM.

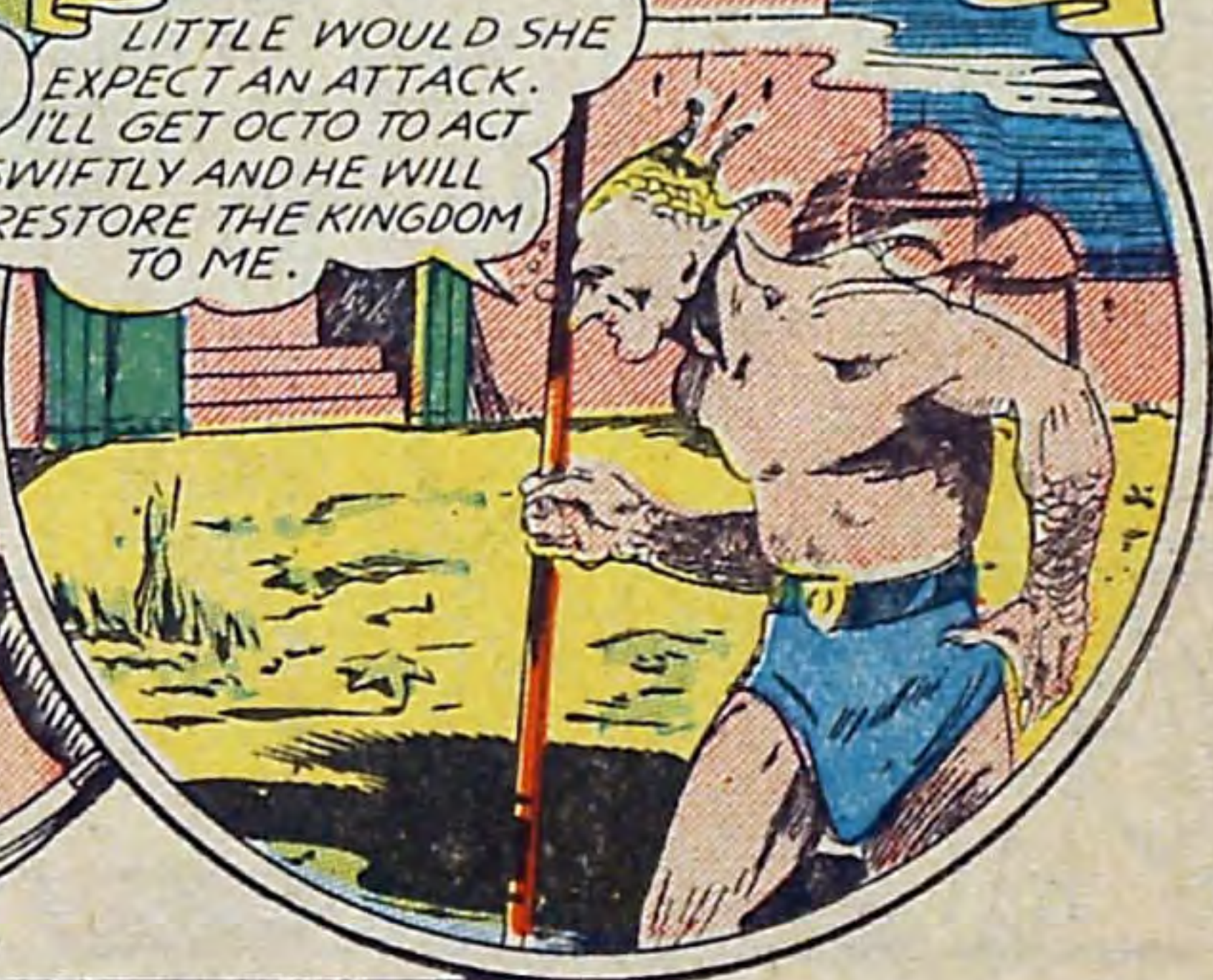
I OFFER YOU THE POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER, MR. BARRY KUDA IF YOU WILL REMAIN WITH US.

I WILL CONSIDER IT.

REMEMBER THE WAITRESS IN FRISCO, BARRY?

NEARBY, BELZAM, THE EXILED PRIME MINISTER, PLOTS TO TAKE OVER THE KINGDOM.

LITTLE WOULD SHE EXPECT AN ATTACK. I'LL GET OCTO TO ACT SWIFTLY AND HE WILL RESTORE THE KINGDOM TO ME.



HE IMMEDIATELY BELZAM PUTS HIS DEVILISH PLANS TO WORK.

WHY DO YOU COME HERE, BELZAM? LONG HAVE OUR NATIONS BEEN AT WAR.

HELP ME TAKE THE KINGDOM OF MERMA AND I WILL GIVE YOU ONE THOUSAND PEARLS EACH DAY AND RULE UNDER YOUR DOMINION. THE TIME IS RIFE, THE QUEEN IS ENRAPTURED WITH A MORTAL - BARRY KUDA.



AFTER LISTENING CAREFULLY TO THE PLAN OF ATTACK, OCTO TAKES BELZAM PRISONER.

WELL SPOKEN, WE WILL ATTACK, BUT WE DO NOT NEED YOUR HELP. YOU WILL FEED OUR GOD WITH YOUR BODY.

NO, NO!



LET ME GO, I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING!

COME, GOD OF OUR WORLD. HERE IS A SACRIFICE!



THE GOD OF THE UNDERGROUND SEA IS APPEASED BY OCTO.

NO-NO-OOOHHHH!

WE'LL BRING MORE FOR YOU SOON, MIGHTY SLIMO.



GOOD! NOW WE CAN LAUNCH OUR ATTACK!

YES, KING, I GO TO SUMMON THE ARMY!



SWIFTLY, THE WELL TRAINED FORCE OF THE OCTOS MOVES TOWARD THE KINGDOM OF MERMA.



OCTO MEN...THEY'RE GOING TO ATTACK THE CITY!

WHOEVER THEY ARE...I DON'T LIKE THEM ONE BIT!

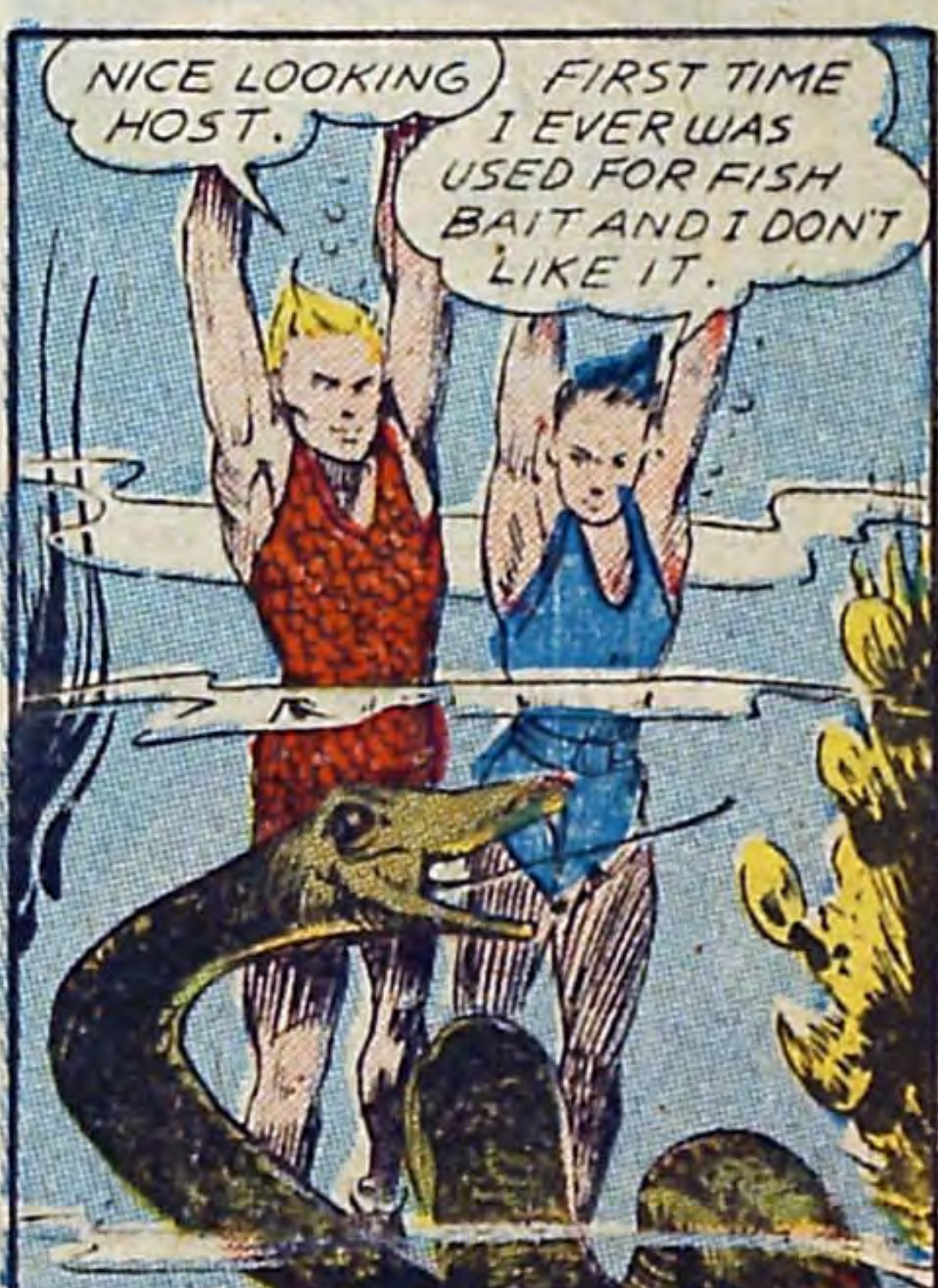
NO TIME FOR SPEECHES! COMON ALGIE, LET'S MUSTER THE ARMIES OF MERMA...IF THEY HAVE ANY!



SILENTLY, BARRY KUDA AND ALGIE PREPARE TO MEET THE INVADERS.

RISE, VALIANT OCTO MEN, WE'LL SCALE THE WALL AND STORM THE CITY.







MEANWHILE, AT THE PALACE OF KING OCTO.

WILL YOU BE MY QUEEN OR MUST I MAKE YOU BEG FOR THE HONOR?

I WILL NEVER AGREE TO YOUR PROPOSAL.



TAKE THEM TO THE TORTURE CHAMBER. SHE WILL SOON BEG ON HER KNEES!



INSIDE THE TORTURE CHAMBER, QUEEN MERMA IS FORCED TO WATCH.

TAKE ONE OF THEM AND SHOW THE PROUD QUEEN WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE US!



SWIFTLY, THE MURDEROUS ORDER IS CARRIED OUT.

EEEYHHHHH... HELP! HELP!



THE BLOODY SIGHT IS TOO MUCH FOR THE TENDERHEARTED QUEEN.

SEE, ALL YOUR SUBJECTS WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE. THERE, DO YOU STILL REFUSE?

FOR THE LIVES OF MY SUBJECTS, I AGREE TO BECOME YOUR WIFE, YOU FIEND!



SOON, THE LOVELY QUEEN MERMA IS PREPARED FOR THE WEDDING CEREMONY.

YOU'RE A LUCKY WOMAN TO MARRY THE HANDSOME KING OCTO!

ALAS, THE TWO MORTALS ARE GONE... THERE IS NO ONE TO SAVE ME FROM THIS HORRIBLE FATE!

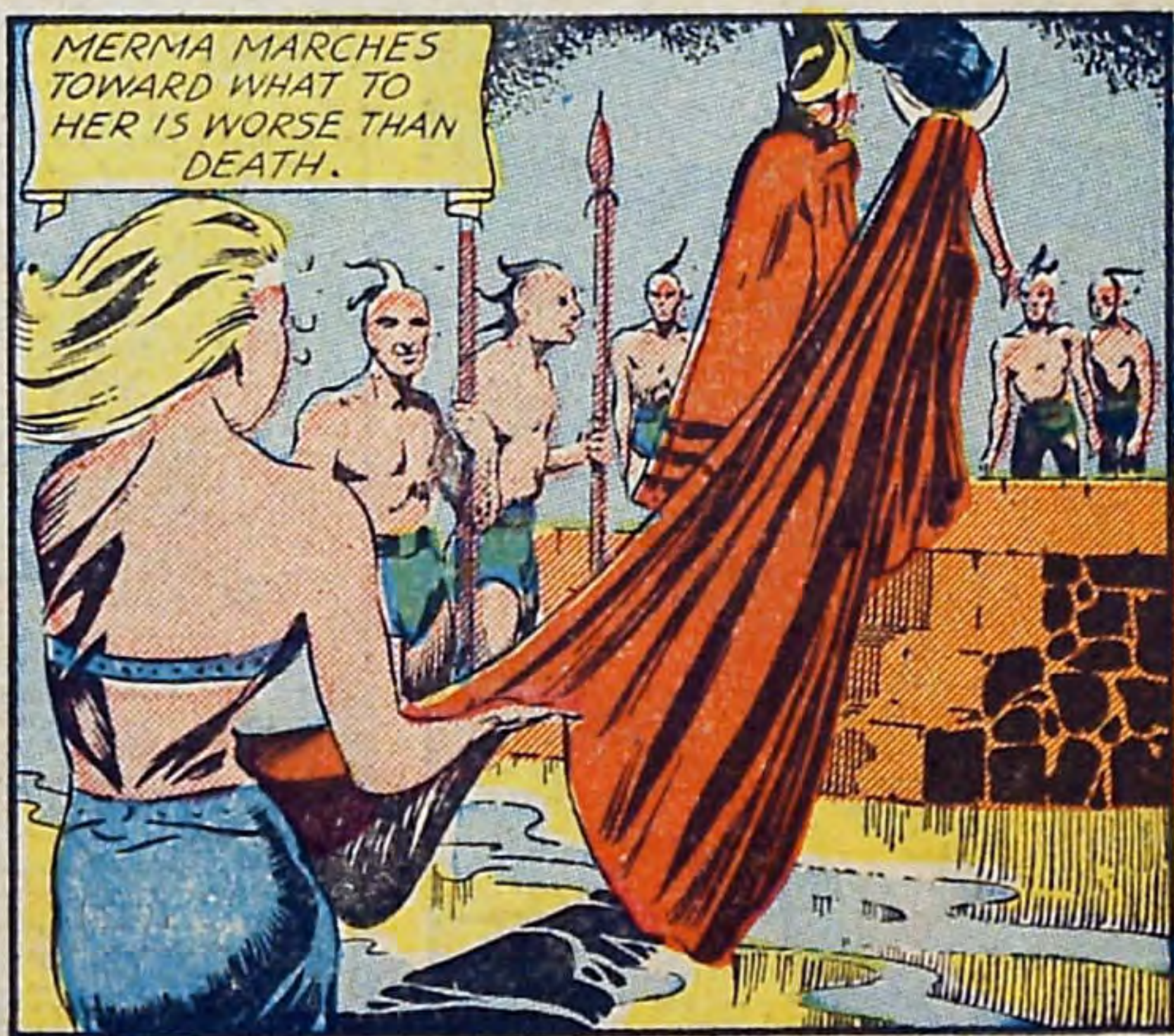


YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL! COME MY DEAR!

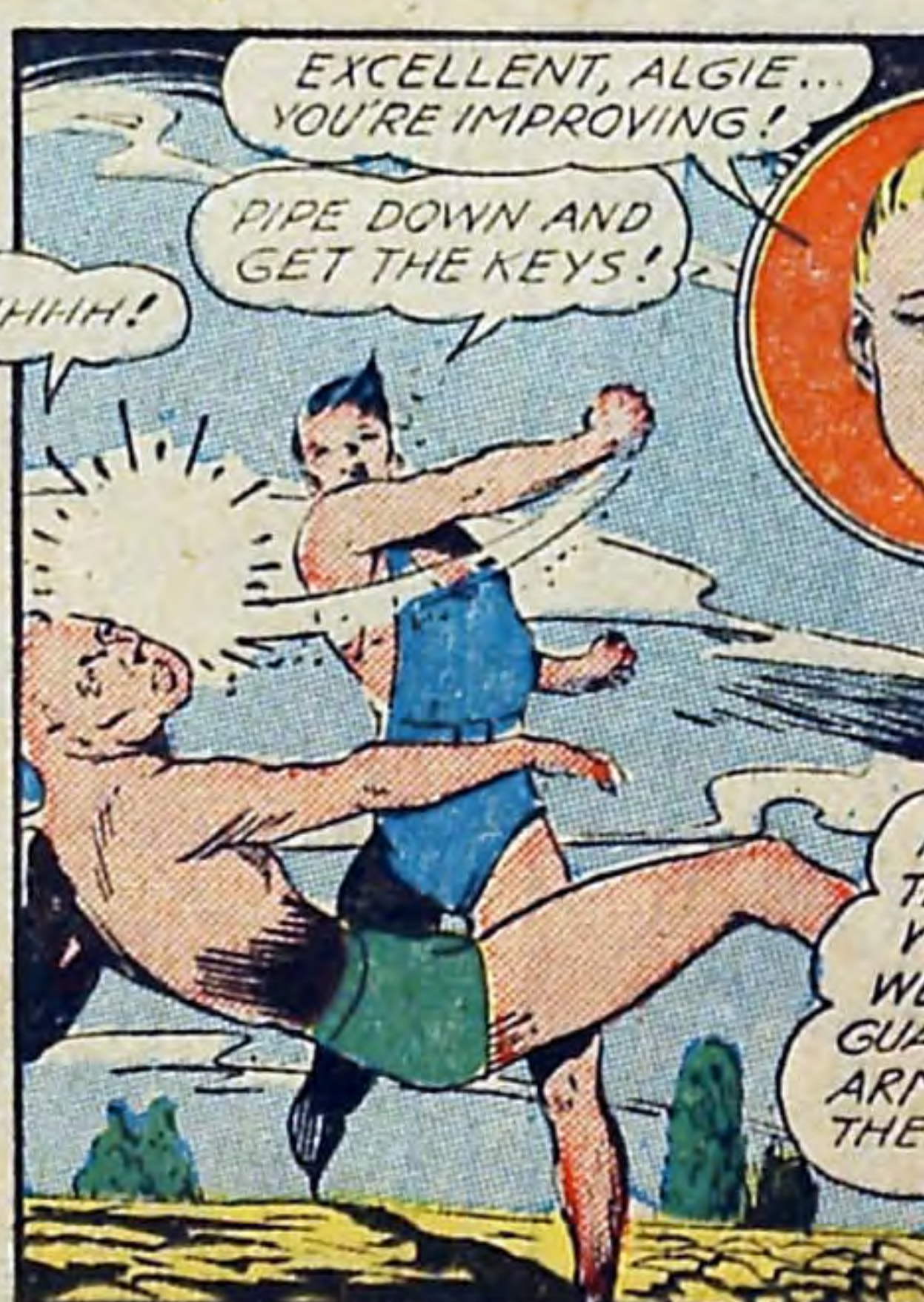
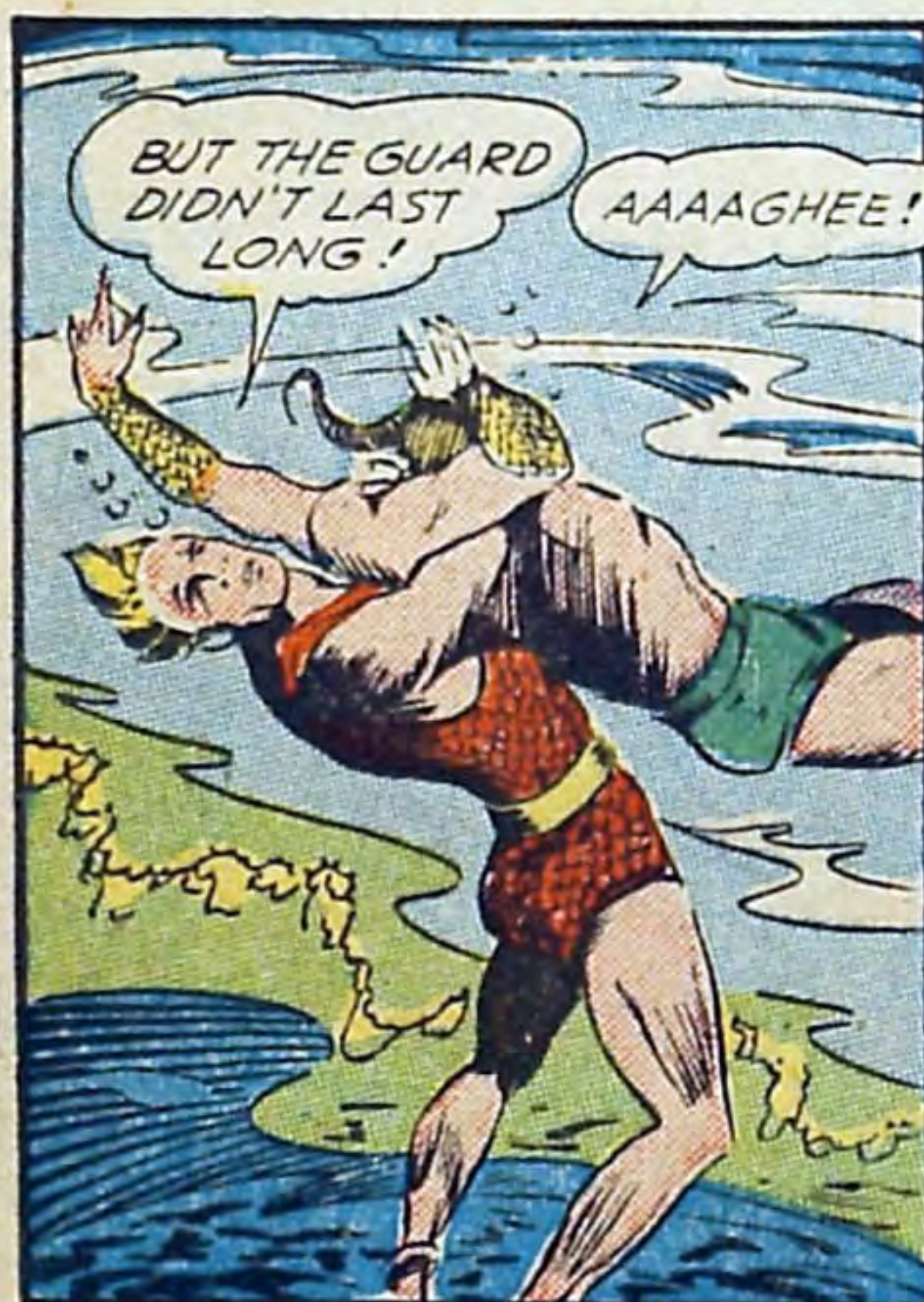
I DO THIS ONLY THAT MY PEOPLE MAY LIVE



MERMA MARCHES TOWARD WHAT TO HER IS WORSE THAN DEATH.



MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE PALACE.



HAVING STRIPPED THE GUARDS OF THEIR WEAPONS, THE VALIANT EXPLORERS REACH THE INNER SANCTUM.

THIS HOLY CROWN WILL FOREVER MAKE YOU THE WIFE OF.....

NOW'S OUR TURN!



YIPPEEEEE... LET'S GO!



LOOK... WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!

IT'S THE EARTHMEN... THEY'RE ALIVE!

RIGHT, QUEEN, AND RARING TO GO!

INSTANTLY, THEY LEAP DOWN ON THE SURPRISED OCTO PEOPLE.

SUDDENLY... THE HIGH PRIEST URGES THE OCTO PEOPLE TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE ATTACKERS.

PEOPLE OF OCTOLAND, YOUR SALVATION HAS COME... RISE AND JOIN THE BRAVE WARRIORS OF THE KINGDOM OF MERMA.



KING OCTO... YOUR DAY OF RECKONING HAS COME!

DOG OF DOGS... NOW YOU DIE!



NO, NO, AAGGGHHH!

WHEN KING OCTO AND HIS HANDFUL OF GUARDS ARE DESTROYED...

LOOK, THEY BOW TO US AS IF IN THANKS!

MAYBE THE PRIEST CAN CLEAR UP THIS MESS.



BE NOT SURPRISED AT THIS. MY PEOPLE OWE YOU A GREAT DEAL. FOR YEARS THE PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE TYRANNICAL OCTO... BUT TO-DAY WITH YOUR HELP THEY HAVE BECOME A PEACE LOVING PEOPLE.



A SMALL BUT BRAVE BAND!

WITH OCTO OUT OF THE WAY... WE CAN SETTLE DOWN TO BUILD UP OUR NATION, INSTEAD OF RISKING OUR PEOPLE IN USELESS WARS WITH OTHERS.

CARNIVAL



BEHIND ALL THE DRESS AND GAIETY,
STARK DRAMA LURKS WITHIN THE
HUMAN BREASTS OF THE PERFORMERS.

INTO THE SHADOW OVERHANGING
THE CARNIVAL, A STRANGER AND
HIS SON ARRIVE.

HE KISSED ME!
CHARLIE, YOU
MUST MAKE HIM
STAY AWAY.

YOU'RE FIRED,
STEVE. GET OFF
THE LOT, AND
QUICK!

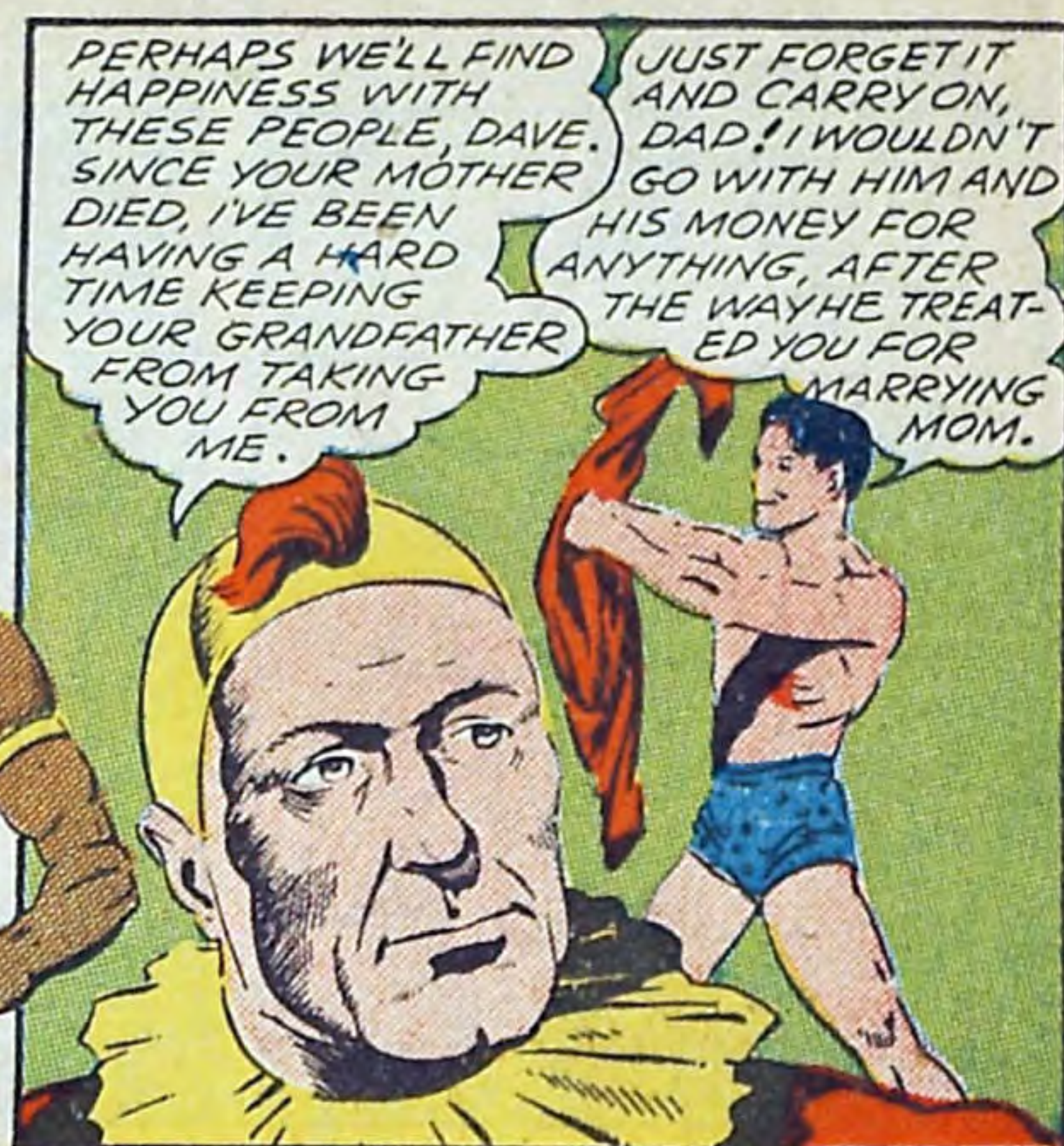
NOW YOU
HAVE NO
CLOWN FOR
YOUR
SHOW.

NEVER MIND,
MAUDE, I'LL
TAKE OVER.

I'M A CIRCUS
MAN, CALLED
ALE. HOOP.

YOU CAN'T
STOP ME.

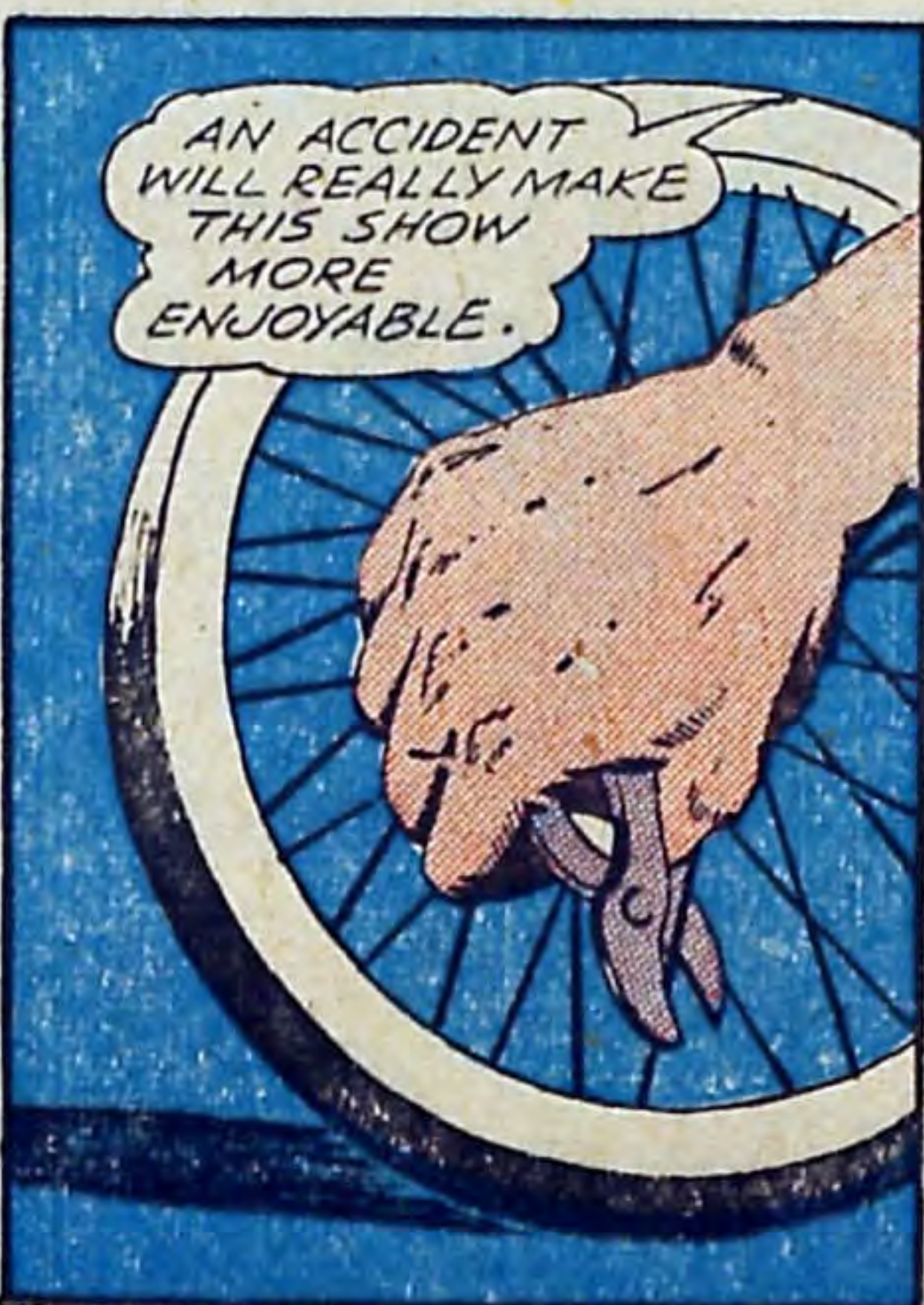




UNNOTICED, A STEALTHY FIGURE SLINKS FROM AL E. HOOP'S DRESSING ROOM.

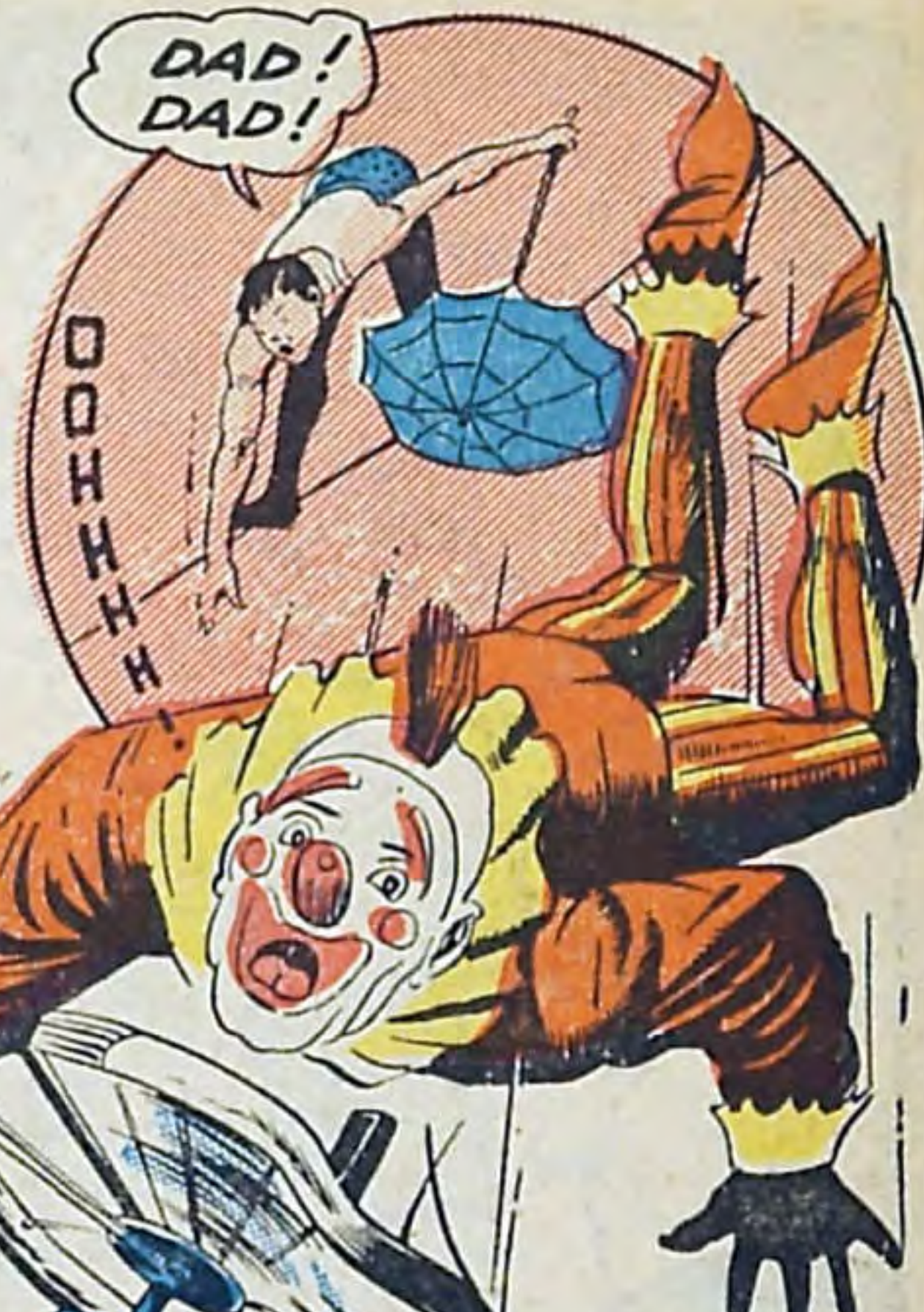
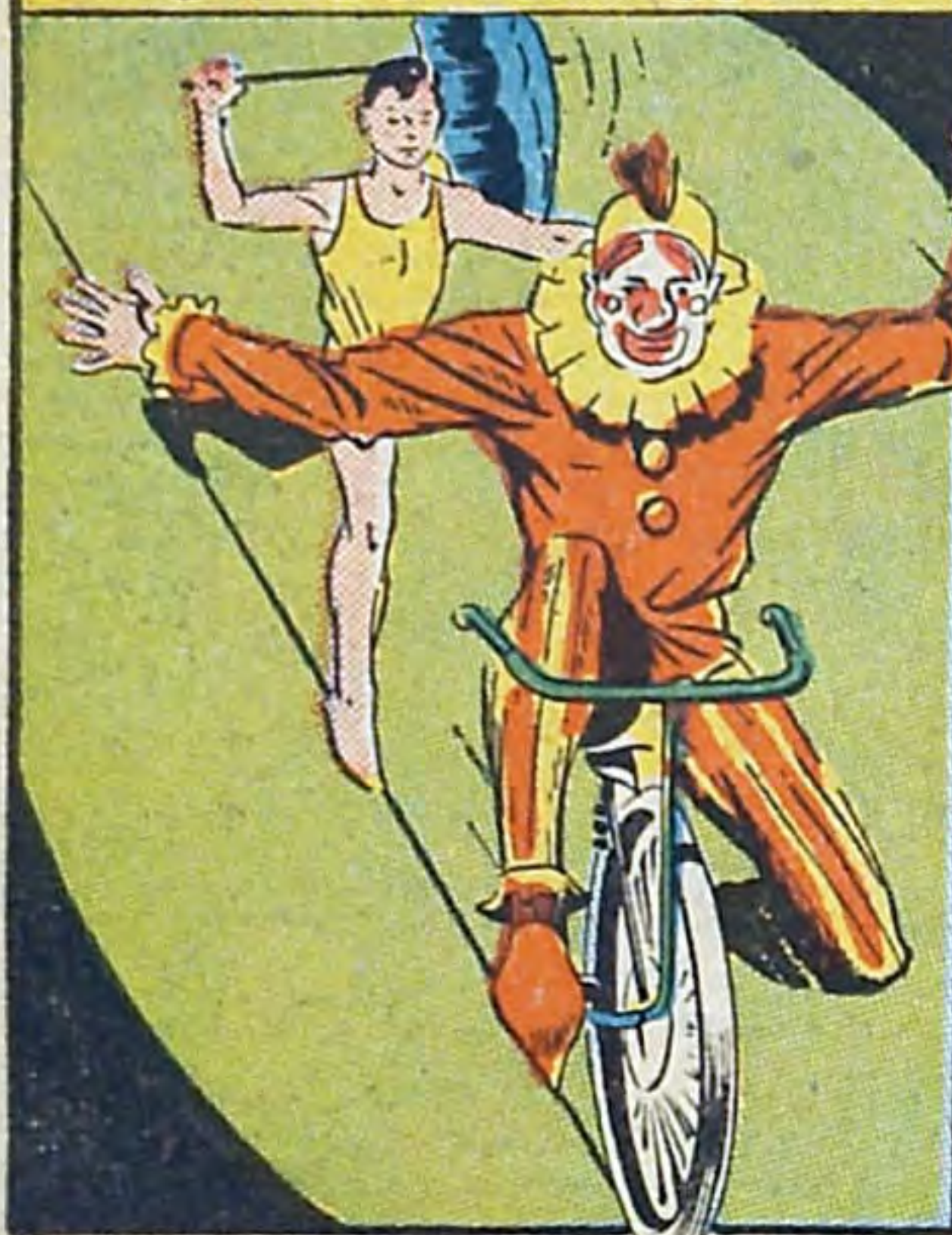


A FEW WORDS ARE SPOKEN ON THE PHONE BY AN UNKNOWN.

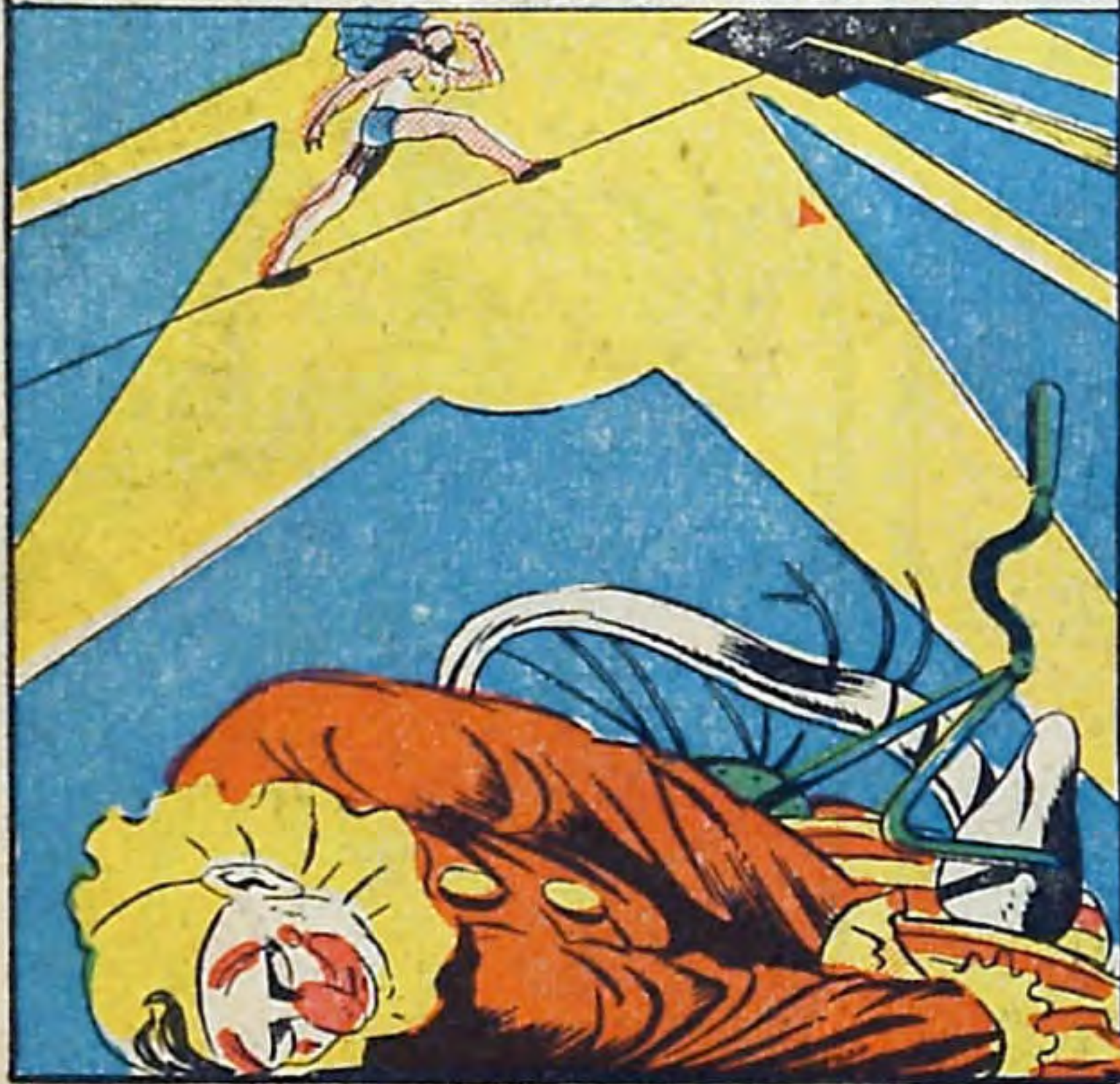


THE HUGE TENT IS SILENCED AS THE RIDE OF DEATH BEGINS.

SUDDENLY THE WHEEL COLLAPSES UNDER THE WEIGHT OF ITS RIDER.



THE AUDIENCE CAME TO LAUGH AND CHEER BUT THE SHADOW OF TRAGEDY STRIKES.



POOR DEVIL, I KNOW HIM. AL MASON, MARRIED RICH OLD NEVINS GIRL. THE OLD CRACK-POT DISOWNED THEM!

PERHAPS, DAVE - YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO YOUR GRANDFATHER NOW - OHHH.

DAD - SPEAK TO ME DAD!

YOUR HOME IS HERE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!

IF I CAN DO ANYTHING, DAVE, PLEASE CALL ME.

THANKS, I'M GOING TO STAY. I'LL NEVER GO TO MY GRANDFATHER AGAIN. THE WAY HE TREATED MY FATHER AND MOTHER.



LOST IN THOUGHT, DAVE FAILS TO NOTICE THE DANGER BEHIND HIM.

THESE SPOKES WEREN'T BROKEN -- THEY WERE CUT! BUT WHY? WHY WOULD ANYONE MEAN TO HURT DAD? IT CAN'T BE...



AHHHH! I'VE GOT THE MILLION DOLLAR KID!

R-R-R-R-I-P-





AN OLD MAN AWAITS THE ARRIVAL OF THE KIDNAPPED BOY.

YOU WILL BE REWARDED. BUT WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND YOU?

AS I PROMISED OVER THE PHONE, I'VE BROUGHT YOUR GRANDSON.



WHY YOU... I'LL... OOOFF!

WE LIKE THAT KID AND WE'RE GOING TO GET HIM!



I'VE GOT HIM!



THE MASK IS RIPPED OFF AND REVEALS...

IT'S PIP, THE OLD CIRCUS WILD MAN! THE SPOKES ON THE WHEEL WERE CUT-- I'LL BET HE KILLED MY FATHER!



I TOLD MR. NEVINS WHERE HE COULD FIND HIS GRANDSON, BUT HONEST, I DIDN'T KILL THE BOY'S FATHER. I SWEAR IT!



NOT SO FAST-- I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM IN YOUR HANDS, BESIDES, WE NEED HIM FOR THE CIRCUS.

HE'S MY GRANDSON. I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!



I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE-- THAT BUNCH IS TOO SMART FOR ME!

GO, YOU BUNGLING FOOL. I CAN DO MUCH BETTER WITHOUT YOU!



I'LL NOT ONLY GET THAT BOY, BUT I'LL SMASH THAT CARNIVAL AND HAVE THOSE TWO STARVING IN THE STREET!



BACK AT THE CARNIVAL LOT, A HUGE CROWD JAMS THE PLACE FOR THE EVENING PERFORMANCE.

LOOK AT THE CROWD-- THIS'LL PROBABLY TAKE US OUT OF THE RED. SAY, WHERE'S DAVE?

HE'S IN HIS TENT-- LET'S DROP IN ON HIM!

Admis 25

NO MATTER WHAT GRIEF LIES UNDER THE FANCY COSTUMES, THE TRADITION OF THE CARNIVAL PREVAILS, "THE SHOW MUST GO ON!"

YOU CAN'T GO UP THERE AND RIDE THE BIKE LIKE YOUR DAD.

I SAID I'D FOLLOW IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS, THAT MEANS I WILL RIDE AND PLAY THE CLOWN.



FRIGHTENED, HE SURVEYS THE WIRE THAT SPELLED DEATH TO HIS FATHER.



WE PRESENT THE "RIDE OF DEATH" FEATURING THE SON OF AL E. HOOP!



I'VE GOT TO DO IT - DAD IS WATCHING ME - I'VE GOT TO DO IT!



HIGH IN THE AIR, DAVE SEES...

THAT MAN! HE'S GOT A KNIFE AND HE'S AFTER CHARLIE.



ALLEY OOP!

HURLING HIMSELF THROUGH THE AIR, DAVE GRASPS AT THE PROPS.



LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU, CHARLIE!

DAVE - DAVE - YOU MADE IT - THE MOST SPECTACULAR LEAP EVER PERFORMED!



THANKS FOR THE TIP, DAVE!

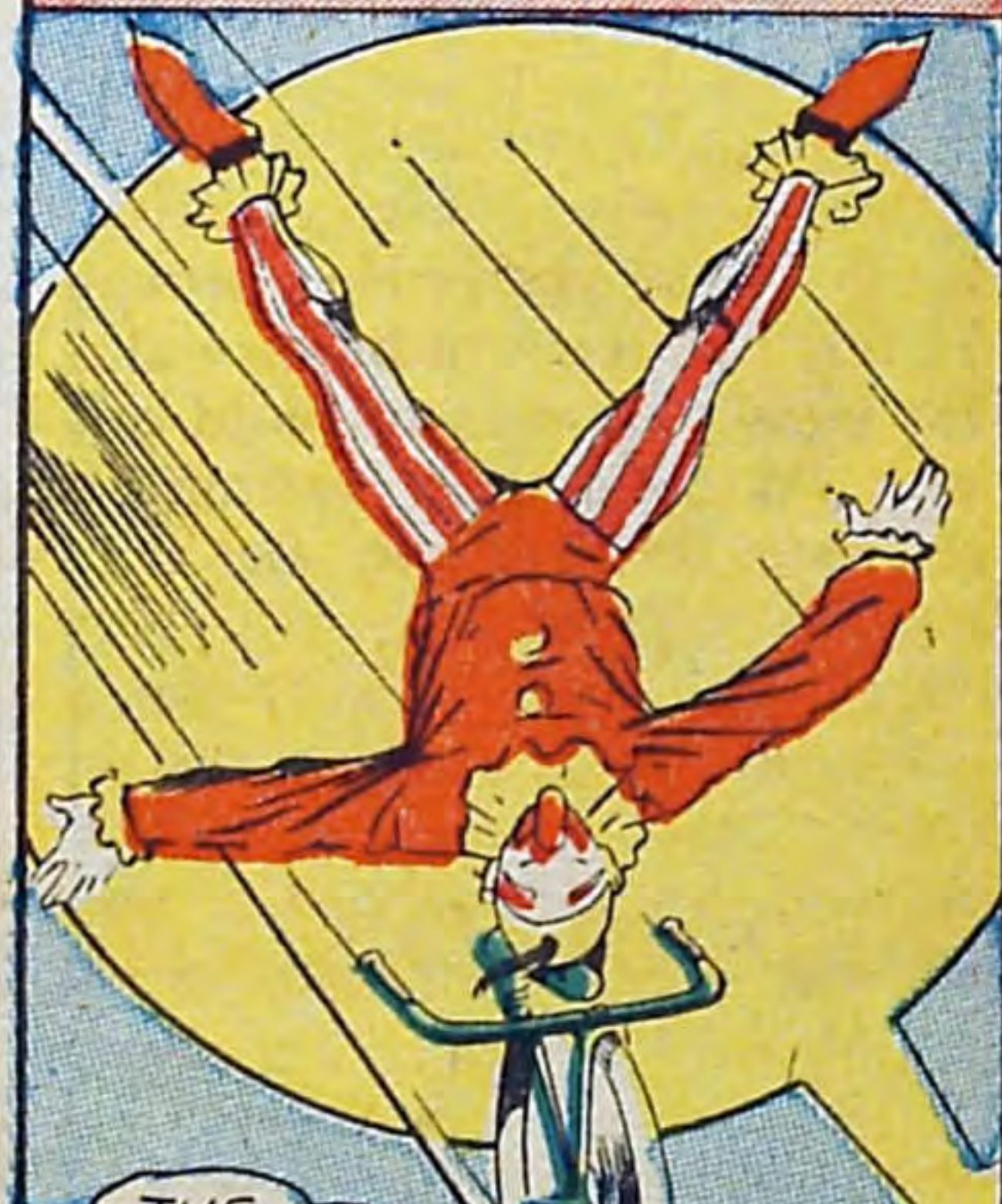
IT'S STEVE, THE CLOWN I FIRED!

REVENGE, THAT'S WHAT I WANTED. I CUT THE SPOKES ON THE BIKE THAT KILLED HIS FATHER-- BECAUSE HE GOT MY JOB! AND NOW I WANTED TO KILL YOU SO I COULD HAVE MAUDE!

THE AUDIENCE CLAMORS FOR THE THRILLS OF THE BIG TOP-- UNAWARE OF THE TRAGEDY AVERTED.



DAVE'S DARING FEAT IS APPLAUDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY THE THRILLED AUDIENCE.



FORGIVE AN OLD MAN'S STUPIDITY, DAVE. THE CIRCUS IS IN YOUR BLOOD AS IT WAS IN YOUR MOTHER AND DAD. COME BACK WITH ME AND LET ME BE A FATHER TO YOU YOU ARE MY SOLE HEIR.



AND TO PROVE IT--I'M GOING TO BUY DAVE A HALF INTEREST IN THE CIRCUS. WHEN HIS EDUCATION IS COMPLETED, HE CAN RETURN TO THE THING HE LOVES-- THE CARNIVAL!



THE SENSATIONAL SON OF THAT FAMOUS ARTIST ALE HOOP!



WE WANT THE SHOW!

STOP STALLING! WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK!

THIS WILL RUIN ME! ONLY SOMETHING BIG CAN SAVE THE DAY!

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING DAVE?

GO ON, DAVE-- HE MEANS WELL NOW.

THERE GOES ONE OF THE GREATEST LITTLE PERFORMERS, MAUDE.

HELL BE BACK, CHARLIE-- THE BLOOD OF THE CARNIVAL'S IN HIM!

KICK BACK FIRE K

Here I am in the kitchen again, surrounded by potatoes. It's funny how I get so much K.P. duty. When I'm not on K.P., the sergeant has me in the stable with the mules. I'm just about the best pilot in the whole remount division. It's my job to take the stuff out and pile it here and pile it there.

There's not a mule in the outfit that keeps any secrets from me. I'm in the stalls so much, the mules treat me like one of their own. The sergeant says I'm getting to think like them and act like them. He says he can't beat anything into my head and I kick about everything. And that's what got me nearly buried by these potatoes—kicking. Yes, some plain and fancy kicking with a touch of forgetfulness. Here's how it was.

We've got a mule in the outfit that's a kicking fool. The first time I ever saw him, he mad a pass at me, but all he did was kick where I had just been. When you've been around mules as long as I have, you learn to be careful. You sort of look for signs. Maybe you could call it instinct. Anyway, I'd notice him watching me, waiting for a chance to boot me one. But as I said, I was careful and we soon came to an understanding. I don't offer him any target, so he don't kick.

But that poor mule starts to pine away. He wasn't mean exactly, he just loved to kick. The only joy he got out of life was his kicking. As soon as I found out what ailed him, everything was O.K. Each day, when we got through work, I'd put up something for him to kick at. He was so accurate that it wasn't long before I was hold-

ing bits of wood and other things in the palm of my hand for him to kick off. He'd just sight down at a flank, depending on which hoof he was going to use, and then he'd bang away. But the prettiest sight of all was to see him aim with both barrels, his head tucked between his forelegs, his hind legs cocked like triggers.

Well, the other night I was over at the PX shooting the breeze with a couple of the boys, and I must have done some bragging. The sarge had to be the one to take me up on it, when I said I'd bet anyone a sawbuck that that mule could kick a chip off a man's shoulder without hurting him. I couldn't back down, so I gave my money to the boys and the sergeant covered it. Then we went out to the stables.

When I went to put the chip on the Sarge's shoulder, he squawked long and loud. But I left it up to the boys. I had to aim the mule, didn't I? The Sarge insists that if he is to have the chip on his shoulder, I had to give him two to one. So I give him two to one. How could I lose? It was in the bag. I could have give him five to one.

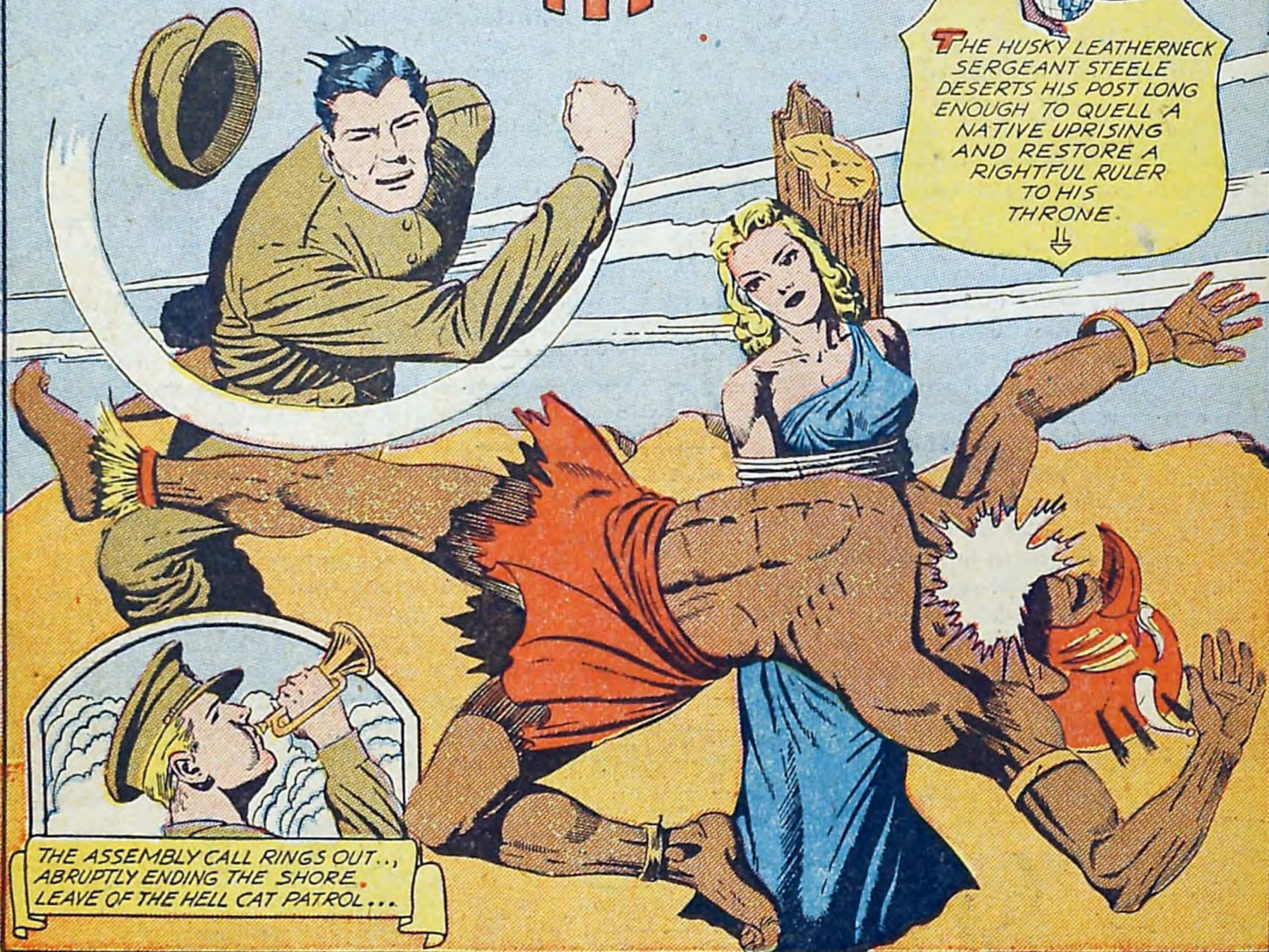
Well, I finally got him set. I led the old mule out of his stall, got him lined up, and the mule let fly! And then I remembered! The one thing that you couldn't do with that mule was turn your back. And how did I stand the sergeant? You guessed it—with his back to the mule. The mule scores a bulls-eye with both barrels, Sarge winds up in the watering trough and I wind up here.

The bet? The boys paid me. They said it didn't hurt the mule a bit.



SERGEANT STEELE


THE HUSKY LEATHERNECK
 SERGEANT STEELE
 DESERTS HIS POST LONG
 ENOUGH TO QUELL A
 NATIVE UPRISING
 AND RESTORE A
 RIGHTFUL RULER
 TO HIS
 THRONE.



THE ASSEMBLY CALL RINGS OUT...
 ABRUPTLY ENDING THE SHORE
 LEAVE OF THE HELL CAT PATROL...

ON SHORE, SERGEANT STEELE AND ROSS PREPARE
 FOR A HURRIED SEARCH OF THEIR PAL, CHUB...

IT'S AN ASSEMBLY CALL!
 WE GOT TO SHOVE OFF.
 WHERE IN BLAZES IS
 CHUB?

I SAW HIM FOLLOWING
 THAT DAME. MAYBE
 THEY'RE AT THE BASIN.



MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THE SUDDEN ENDING OF
 HIS SHORE LEAVE, CHUB CARRIES TIRELESSLY ON.

HONEY, I'VE TRAVELED
 AROUND THE WORLD, AND
 AT LAST FOUND MY
 CROWN JEWEL.

TELL ME MORE,
 SWEETHEART.







SURE LOOKS BAD! I'D BETTER GIVE THE BOY A HAND!



AS THE NATIVES PREPARE TO STRIKE THE FUGITIVE, A HAND REACHES OUT OF THE WATER.



THE LEATHERNECK OVERTURNS THE CANOE.

YIIII!
DEVIL FISH
ATTACK US!



CLIMB INTO THE NATIVE BOAT. WHILE THEY'RE SCRAMMING, WE MAY AS WELL REST.

I AM PRINCE KATO, RIGHTFUL RULER OF RANGO. MY HALF BROTHER, WITH THE AID OF A POWERFUL MEDICINE MAN, HAS TAKEN POWER OF THE ISLAND.



--AND NOW THEY HAVE KIDNAPPED THE WHITE TOURISTS AND ARE GOING TO SACRIFICE THEM TO-NIGHT. WHEN I SAW YOUR BOAT, I ESCAPED FOR HELP.

OKAY, LET'S GO!



ON LANDING, STEELE AND THE NATIVE COME TO A GREAT CLEARING IN THE JUNGLE.

MEDICINE MAN HAD MY PEOPLE CLEAR THIS PLACE. HE SAID SOMEDAY GIANT BIRDS WOULD LAND HERE.



I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THROUGH THIS. COME ON KATO, WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST!



STOP! WE ARE NEARING THE SACRIFICE.



ME UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING!

OKAY KATO, I'M GOING INTO ACTION, RIGHT NOW!



MEANWHILE IN THE VALLEY...

GREAT POWER OF POWERS, TAKE THESE OFFERINGS AND GIVE MY PEOPLE IN RETURN GIANT BIRDS TO FIGHT OUR ENEMIES.



WOULD YOU CALL ME A BIRD?



OKAY FIREBUG, COOL OFF!



JUST STICK CLOSE TO ME

OH, THANK GOODNESS!



QUICKLY THE HALF BROTHER, MEETAH, RUSHES TO THE SCENE.

HE HIT OUR MEDICINE MAN. KILL HIM AND THE OTHER WHITE MEN!



WHERE'S THAT MEDICINE MAN? THERE HE IS!



OUT OF MY WAY, LUGS!

WHOOOSH!

YIII!



LIKE ANGRY BEASTS, THE TWO CHARGE INTO BATTLE.

YOU ARE HALF MY BROTHER AND HALF SNAKE.

YOU MEAN HALF SHEEP AND HALF SNAKE, AND THE SNAKE HAS A POISONOUS BITE.



THE BATTLE RAGES ON UNTIL KATO TRIPS OVER A ROCK.

HA, YOUR CLUMSY FEET GIVE WAY. NOW I WILL KILL YOU AND RANGO ISLAND IS MINE.

THE SNAKE IS OVERANXIOUS. NOW THE BATTLE IS EVEN AGAIN!



IT'S YOUR DEATH, BUT THE FREEDOM OF MY PEOPLE!



THE FOREIGNER HELPED ME GET POWER. I WAS TO CREATE TROUBLE WITH THE U.S. THEN JAPAN WOULD LAND A MIGHTY AIR FORCE AS AN EXCUSE TO PROTECT US.

THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT BY GIANT BIRDS! BOY THIS SURE WAS PLEASANT WORK.



IT'S MORNING. BACK TO THE BOAT. NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN TO GET ME OUT OF A JAM.



LATER AS STEELE BOARDS HIS SHIP.

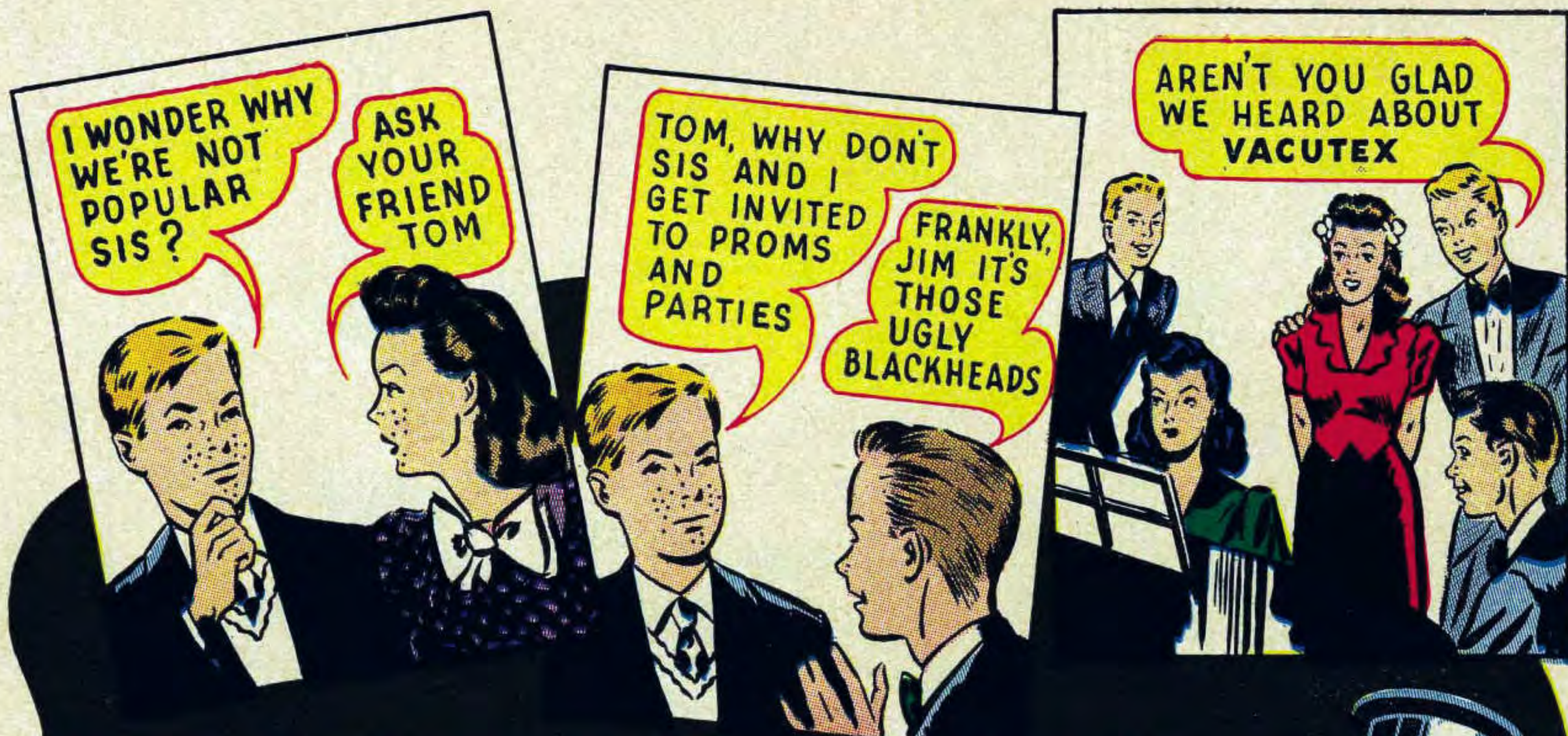
SERGEANT STEELE! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF YOUR DESERTING YOUR POST!



COMMANDER, I WANT YOU TO MEET PRINCE KATO, THE NEW RULER OF RANGO ISLAND, WHO IS A LOYAL FRIEND OF THE U.S. HERE ARE THE TOURISTS, SIR.

AHEM, STEELE, YOU SHOULD BE A POLITICIAN INSTEAD OF A MARINE.





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JAN. 1945

COVER PAUL GATTUSO*

The BLACK DWARF PAUL GATTUSO 7

GLOBE TROTTER ASTARITA 7

DEVIL DOG DULAN TEXT 1

PREHISTORIC PETE BECK & EPPENS 4

The VEILED AVENGER BATTEFIELD & EPPENS? 6

That's ODD 1

BARRY KUDA JOEY CAVALLO? 7

CARNIVAL PLASTWO? 7

BACKFIRE KICK TEXT ? 1

SERGEANT STEELE 6